THE LITERARY WORLD.

A Gazette for

AUTHORS, READERS, AND PUBLISHERS.

No. 7.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1847.

THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

THE LITERARY WORLD. No. VII. March 20, 1847.

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From the author of "Ferdinand and Isabella," &c.

From the author of "Ferdinand and Isabella," &c.

Boston, Dec. 30th, 1846.

Gentlemen,—I have examined the two numbers of your "Cyclopadia," which you have sent me, and from the cursory inspection I have been able to give them, it appears to me the plan of the work is very judicious.

From what I know of the literary reputation and writings of Mr. Chambers, the Scottish editor, I should be disappointed if he were not qualified for the task; and as the mechanical execution of your edition is such as to do justice to its merits, I trust you will be amply remunerated by the patronage of the American public.

Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT.

From the President of Harvard College.

CAMBRIDGE, Jan. 1st, 1847.

I concur in the foregoing opinion of Mr. Prescott as to the merits of Chambers's Cyclopedia, as far as I have had an opportunity to examine the specimen of it already published in Boston.

EDWARD EVERETT.

From the President of Browne University I am much pleased with your first number of the Cyclopedia. I think it will be a useful and popular work, and indispensable to the library of a student of English Literature.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1847.

Reviems.

The Prose Writers of America; with a Survey of the History, Condition, and Prospects of American Literature. By Rufus Wilmot Griswold, illustrated with portraits from original pictures. Philadelphia: Carey &

Hart. 1847. 8vo., pp. 552. A good history of what the intellect of the country has achieved in the various branches of literature is certainly a very desirable and important undertaking. It is of use as a ready means of information to the present and rising generations, of what their fathers have accomplished, as a preservation of records and associations well worth remembrance: it is a convenient answer to foreign inquirers who come to our shores seeking a knowledge of our literature as well as of our art and science: it warns us, too, of what the country has failed to do, as well as of what it has done, and leads us on with hope or counsel, to a better future. Such are some of the thoughts which occur to us on taking up a new volume devoted to the "Intellectual History, Condition, and Prospects of the Country." If well executed, we are prepared to hail it as one of the most valuable gifts which the American author can at this time present to the public. We are aware, indeed, that there are peculiar difficulties in the way of the execution of such a work. It requires at once great industry, great taste, and sagacity, with original critical powers of discernment, a wide knowledge, and a thorough conscientiousness, to govern the whole. There is, moreover,-if the work is to include an account of living authors,—a necessity of self-sacrifice on the part of the writer, who is frequently called to choose between truth and candor on one side, and the favor of individuals and the public on the other. It is difficult to unite all these essentials. The man of taste and refinement, of philosophic habits, will rarely leave his study to solicit the personal acquaintance of a great number of authors, to few of whom he can be drawn by sympathy; yet he must know all, and gather from them, in some way, at least by correspondence, some history of their lives and writings. There are many fine scholars in the country, in whose taste and judgment we could confide,-nay, who are the only proper persons to write of certain topics and certain authors,—who could not be drawn, by any publisher's inducements, to conquer their repugnance to this species of publicity. Again, they would not be vexed by so great a variety of studies as this kind of Encyclopædiac work implies. They have too true a sense of the value of individual culture to abandon it lightly. They have too delicate an appreciation of what is due to the honor and reputation of others, to step between them and the public, and make the award which, in their own case, they are willing their children should hear from the lips of another generation, when their own account with time is closed for ever. Yet the modesty which shrinks from the work is suggestive of the very qualities necessary to fulfil it.

Hence this species of writing, this authoritative commentary on living authors, falls almost of necessity into inferior hands. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

The composition of a book or history is essentially different from any contributions to reviews or periodicals. The latter furnish but hints and suggestions, are at best but aids for history: the former pretends to be the history itself. A review is rarely taken as conclusive

authority on the merits of an author: it may be revised or superseded: it is frequently nothing more than the view of but part of a great whole, or perhaps a convenient abridgment: it is published to-day, and succeeded by some fresher novelty to-morrow. But the book is stereotyped: it has the authority of a book: it is preserved: it goes abroad, and gives color to opinion for perhaps an entire generation. How important, then, that it should be wisely and honestly written.

There are two modes in which good books, of this class of literary histories, may be written. They may be either industrious compends, confined to well-ascertained matters of fact, and well-settled judgments, with careful specimens of authors, or they may be of the higher rank of original critical histories. The latter are rarely attempted of living authors, with success; requiring, as we have stated, qualities of mind and heart for their composition which cannot often be engaged for the task. The safer course to pursue with contemporaries, is

to make useful compilations.

To which of these ranks does the new work of Mr. Griswold belong? To neither one nor the other. It is an unpleasant cross between the two. The reader is at one moment starved by a dry catalogue; at another, inflated by a windy disquisition, with little profit any way. Mr. Griswold seems to lack the simple habits of mind of the patient chronicler, "an honest chronicler like Griffith," while he is evidently unequal to the higher demands of criticism. His compilations of the Poets and Prose Writers are hence dry and chaffy, meagre, and unprofitable. In the whole range of his little parcels of biography, we do not remember one column which may be quoted for its fervor or elegance, for an instinctive knowledge of character, or a new appreciation of any beauty of style or conception.* With a dry style is sometimes associated great logical power and correctness; but the different members of these sentences are often contradictory and inaccurate: inaccurate as to fact and reasoning. A loose style is sometimes compensated by occasional fancy or enthusiasm; but the style of our commentator is barren as the sands of Egypt of figure or metaphor: though, like those sands, frequently whirling in clouds towards the heavens. We turn from the com-mentary to the text, but here we find the desert has overpowered the fruit trees and the garden. Even brilliant writers, cut into little squares. are defrauded of their crystalline proportions: and Willis looks dull, Webster scrappy, and Neal common-place, in these paltry six to twelve inch specimens.

Unsatisfactory as "The Poets of America" was pronounced in this form, it is much easier to make a collection of poems than of prose specimens. Most of American verse is fugitive. Some of the best of the longer poems—as the Buccaneer and the Culprit Fay—could be given entire: an author's choicest works could be often printed in a few pages. But what oration of Webster's can be judged of by extracts? What is a passage of Cooper or Brockden Brown worth, taken from its original framework? We value it from the journey we have performed in reaching it; from the pleasure it gives us to glance back upon it. Extracts of the kind may do for reading books in schools, but they will be of little value otherwise. This is an essential difficulty, however.

by other pens. The paper on Brownson for instance in the Prose Writers appears of a different texture from the

lumes than it might have been by the method of commencing each new author with a new page. We turn the leaf for the conclusion of a passage, and perhaps from the orthodox Herman Hooker, come bolt upon Orestes Brownson, whom Mr. Griswold says doubtfully, "is bold and powerful, and I suppose honest." The only way to get over this difficulty of stiffness and formality would be to quote the passages in connexion with the text, to mix the plums with the pudding.

To give our readers some examples of the union of dryness and extravagance to which we have alluded. Mr. Griswold, who seems anxious to catch a paradox where he can, as a cheap affectation of originality, and a surprise to the reader, tells us that as hindrances to our literary advancement, "the restless and turbulent movements of our democracy, and the want of a wealthy and privileged class, deserve little consideration. The best authors of Rome were senators and soldiers. Milton, the greatest of the prose writers, as well as the greatest of the poets of England, lived in the Commonwealth. Tumult and strife, the clashing of great interests and high excitements, are to be regarded rather as aids than as obstacles to intellectual progress," &c. We have yet to learn that Virgil and Ovid were poets because they were statesmen or soldiers; and did not Horace throw away his shield on the battle-field? Does not Cicero sound in our ears constantly the adage, "silent leges inter arma?" Did not the Augustan age illustrate the arts of Peace? But, according to Mr. Griswold's theory, Catiline, who had less repose than "blind Mæonides," should have written the treatise on Old Age, and the Oration for the Poet Archias, and not Cicero. The case of Milton is still more unfortunate. Few readers will take Mr. Griswold's assertion as anything more than a very vapid hap-hazard expression, that Milton was "the greatest prose writer and poet of England." They will recollect Shakspeare; and while they honor the vigor of the Areopagitica, will commend Mr. Griswold to keep, as rather safer ground, to the prose writers of America. Now, for the fact that Milton's poetry was the fruit of the "upturnings and overthrows" of the Commonwealth. Milton was doubtless strengthened by the part he took in active life; Lat something very different from restlessness and turbulence went to make up Paradise Lost. In the first place, to an ingenuous temperament was added seven years' severe scholastic discipline at Cambridge, five years of retirement with the classics at his father's country-seat, and three years of travel and converse with the scholars of Italy; and this was but the foundation of a work to be completed only in the solitude of blindness-and we have Milton's own testimony that he came an age too late. There is very little hope of getting any great literary work out of American sciolism and electioneering from the example of John Milton.

Mr. Griswold takes the South as representative of the men of wealth, and says ' have, in the Southern States of this republic, a large class, with ample fortunes, leisure, and quiet; but they have done comparatively nothing in the fields of intellectual exertion, except when startled into spasmodic activity by conflicts of interest with the North." need go no further than Mr. Griswold's own book for a refutation of this. Without looking beyond his list, which might be enlarged, we find from the South, born under the shadow of Southern institutions, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, Calhoun, Audubon, Washington Allston, Legaré, W. Gilmore Simms, William Wirt, Richard Henry Wilde, Kennedy, Bird, Edgar A. Poe-one-fifth nearly of the numerical force of the whole volume.

Presently we get this lucid illustration of the genius of Daniel Webster: "If I should compare him to any foreigner" (from this awful assumption of responsibility, we look confidently for something original) "it would be to Burke! But he is a greater man than the Irish Colossus. His genius is more various. He is more chaste. His style and argument are not less compact. And his learning is as comprehensive, and more profound. The literature of the language has no more splendid rhetoric or faultless logic." We thought the "Irish Colossus" had been delivered to the secondhand dealers in rhetoric long since. It has done service in its day, is out at elbows, and should rest a while at the pawnbrokers. That Webster's genius is more comprehensive than Burke's, the world has yet to receive evidence of. Surely no one could sooner repudiate this praise than Mr. Webster himself. To say that he is more chaste, is no praise, though it seems so. The fancy of Burke vindicates itself, is true to itself, is justified to the world. Webster may have different qualities, but they can gain nothing by detraction from the bril-liant attributes of Burke. The comparison is puerile, and injurious to Webster.

We have another instance of Mrs. Malaprop criticism, in this comic passage, on the style of Washington Irving: "His style has the ease and purity, and more than the grace and polish of Franklin, without the intensity of Brown, the compactness of Calhoun, or the strength

and splendor of Webster."

Who will be surprised, after this, that Mr. J. T. Headley is compared to Addison? The pe-culiar qualities of Mr. Headley's style are well known; his books are in everybody's hands, and critics even let his carelessness and inaccuracy pass in the hurry of his impulse and movement. He is, however, as much like Addison as a soldier scrambling in the rush for Monterey is like Beau Brummell. "His Letters from Italy is a work upon which a man of taste will be gratified to linger. It possesses the unfatiguing charms of perfect simplicity and truth. In many of the passages there is a quiet and almost unconscious humor, which reminds us of the delicate raillery of the Spectator. The style is delightfully free from anything bookish and commonplace." The last sentence is an example of a common juggle of criticism, to which we alluded a few weeks since in the Literary World, by which a case may be made out, apparently, for any author. The secret is—describe him by negatives. Thus we say of John Templeton Smith, for instance: his style is disfigured by none of those far-fetched quips which mislead the genius of Shakspeare; his learning does not, like that of Ben Jonson, oppress him; his style is free from the satiety of Addison; it has not the overconciseness of Bishop Butler,—from all which the simple reader would suppose Mr. Smith had at least some qualities in common with Shakspeare, Ben Jonson, &c., though, upon the whole, he was superior to them all. Mr. Griswold has very frequently recourse to this species of juggling. Thus in the case of Headley, it appears to be praise that he is not bookish, while he may lack just what books alone can supply. There is another naïre example of this in Mr. Griswold's account of Jonathan Edwards, thus :-" Bacon was described as 'the wisest and the meanest of mankind;' but Edwards, not inferior to the immortal Chancellor in genius,

suffers not even an accusation of anything that writing on American subjects has not unbecoming a gentleman, a philosopher, or a

Mr. Whipple's style is again described as "suggesting a fusion of the strength of the Areopagitica with the ease and liveliness of the Spectator."

It is this jumble of celebrities, this

Moses and Aaron, Paul Jones and old Charon

style of combination, which jars upon the reader in the skeleton preface, where we have so close together Edward Robinson, Moses Stuart, the Peregrinations of Petrus Mudd, Thompson's Major Jones's Courtship, Mr. Thorpe's Big Bear of Arkansas, Mr. Hooper's Simon Suggs, Morgan Neville's Mike Fink.

Nothing can be more painful to the eye or grievous to the soul than this arid catalogue-

The recurrence of certain inelegant expressions is very tiresome, such as sort in every variety. "The same sort Irving had published," "a certain sort of persons," "the highest sort of nationality," "this sort of knowledge," "this sort of writing," "the sort of persons Franklin addressed," Verplanck's Shakspeare, "in some sort a comprehensive commentary," &c. Yet Mr. Griswold finds fault with the style of Irving for the use of a vulgarism which occurs in Paradise Lost!

Of inaccuracies there are far more typographical blunders than there need be. Prescott is stated to be born in 1776; A. H. Everett it seems was sent to Cuba last winter as an agent of the government at the time he

was in China, &c., &c.
We are told in the beginning of a paragraph that "the success of the Pilot was at first a little doubtful in this country," and at the close of it that "it is one of the most remarkable novels of the time, and everywhere obtained constant and high applause."

Professor Robinson is stated to be descended from the famous John Robinson, of Leyden, which will be as entirely new a piece of information to the distinguished biblical scholar as it is to the public.

There is undoubtedly with all this carelessness and inefficiency, a great deal of respecta-ble narrative in the volume where no particular nicety is needed, all of which we have no disposition to undervalue. There are many made up opinions from the average judgment

of society also, which will pass current.

The pretensions of the book to any general views may be summed up in the two ideas Nationality and Copyright. These are the perpetually recurring phrases. Constantly the foot rule of nationality is applied to an author or publisher, and members of congress are blown up roundly, in good set terms. Our readers know already that the Literary World is no equivocal supporter of a true nationality; we look forward to its development with interest, and gladly record any promises by the

necessarily anything to do with it. How can Prescott any further than Roscoe be claimed as a nationality man according to Mr. Gris-wold's standard, unless by the advantage of American subject matter? Washington Irving we are told is not "in his sympathies, tastes, and execution, more English than American, and that it is not in any degree improbable that if Addison, Goldsmith or Mackenzie had never lived, he would have written exactly as he has written, and upon every subject except the life of Goldsmith, which has ever received his attention." This is going altogether further than is necessary, and than is true. On the other hand John Neal is snubbed because he has always worked for the cause, with the remark, "it is common to speak of Mr. Neal as an American author par excellence; but his claims to such distinction, like those of many others, are chiefly of a negative character." Miss Fuller, who has written strongly upon this question, is put in the same category, and Mathews, who has been one of its chief champions and got heartily abused for it,

is branded as altogether spurious.

Whence Mr. Griswold's new-born zeal on this subject? We do not remember noticing it in the Poets of America. And what means a constant series of innuendoes and allusions to various spurious professors of the art national. It looks very much as if Mr. Griswold were usurping some nationality throne, and like an Eastern monarch bow-stringing all rival claimants, to feel himself secure.

The account of Miss Fuller is a singular piece of composition. After the usual lifeless rigmarole of biographical statements, we have a cavil at some remarks of the authoress on the proper treatment of Indian subjects, which is very unbecomingly construed into an attack upon the late Mrs. Schoolcraft. "Nothing," says Mr. Griswold, "can be more ridiculous." We would make exception in favor of his own comments. The very independence and straightforwardness of this writer are made grounds of complaint against her. "Her remarks upon the Indians are very superficial and incautious because this is so apparent. Of that species of caution we confess indeed we can find no traces in the writings of Miss Fuller, though specimens of it are abundant in the book of Mr. Griswold. She will willingly plead guilty to a charge which it were a dishonor to refute. We are then told that Miss Fuller "shows everywhere a willingness to advance any opinion for the sake of making a point," and as an example a slight newspaper notice of the writings of Mr. Poe is quoted, in which she says, "no form of literary activity has so terribly degenerated among us as the tale" for the purpose of bringing in the reward, "that everybody who wenter a work has been been as the purpose of the purp reward, "that everybody who wants a new hat or bonnet takes this way to earn one from the magazines or annuals." This is the statement. Now for the comment. It is fearfully

way. It is one of the good signs of the times that Mr. Griswold has occupied so much of his book with the subject; it is evidence that the topic either is or is about to be popular and expedient.

The beginning, middle, and end of Mr. Griswold's book is nationality. The thought seems to have entered and taken possession of the writer's mind with the force of monomania. It is continually thrust upon the attention, and as continually misapplied. The principle seems to be to find nationality where it does not exist as such, and to deny it where it does. Thus we have Prescott brought forward as a national writer, though we are elsewhere told

big-book-ian. "This display of wit was too magazines, the Athenæum, and the Westdearly purchased by so large a sacrifice of in-tegrity." How so? Why this degrading charge? Was it not true? It was—yet Mr. Griswold seeks to disprove it by summoning up an array of American tale writers, Irving, Dana, and others, who had all written long before this statement was made, and to whom it did not at all apply. It is a trick to deceive the reader. Miss Fuller says "the tale has degenerated among us," implying that it had once reached a high character; she alludes to the popular magazine stories of the day, and as we have stated, what she says was true. It would be trifling with the reader to notice such absurdities did they appear in any other quarter than this national octavo. Here we have again nationality introduced, and Miss Fuller censured for introducing to the notice of the American people the superior culture of Europe. "She seems to think that books, like brown stout, are improved by the motion of a ship, and therefore generally eulogises those which have been imported, and is very severe upon those of home production." The eulogies of Miss Fuller are upon Milton, the two Herberts, Goethe, the great composers, Haydn, Mozart, Handel, Bach, Beethoven, and such modern poets as Miss Barrett and Browning. There is nothing to make critical faces at in all this. It would be thought to any one possessed of a particle of real feeling for the literary wants of the country, that it was doing the state some service to introduce names like these to the people. Our national critic apparently thinks otherwise.

Mr. Griswold further sneeringly tells us that Miss Fuller has "an astonishing facility in the use of her intellectual furniture, she were a shallow writer, producing effects by the smallest means. The contrary is no-toriously the case. Every reader of a spark of intelligence must be impressed by a deficiency of utterance as it were, an inability to express the entire thought which is hidden in the mind, a glimpse of "riches infinite" be-yond the written page. We are not writing a criticism upon Miss Fuller. There are suggestions which might be made to her with respect to her writings, but Mr. Griswold is not the man to make them. He has blundered, as usual, sadly in accusing Miss Fuller of a want of nationality, the whole force of whose character is bent upon the development of this very thing. It is a little singular that while the critics of England and France are conferring distinguished honors upon Miss Fuller as a representative of American genius, the author of this big book on nationality should so pitifully depreciate her. Of the coarse and illiberal treatment of Mr. Mathews we offer no refutation. It is, with the exception of the paper on Miss Fuller and one or two other instances, a departure from the method of the whole book, and indicates an unworthy purpose. It is an attempt to degrade the author, which must react in his favor. We are told that one of his books "is low, and base, and as untrue as it is revolting,"—that the style of Mr. Mathews "indicates a mind accustomed to the contemplation of vulgar depravity.' "Some writers are said to advance on stilts; our author may be said to proceed differ-ently, strainingly jerking through mire." The rest is one of Mr. Griswold's diatribes on nationality, which are plastered over the whole volume. Whatever errors of taste there may be in Mr. Mathews's works, there is not a line base or immoral. That they have gone abroad and been highly praised in influential

minster Review, is true, and no cavil of Mr. Griswold's will reverse the judgment.

We are not disposed to press the omissions in Mr. Griswold's book, knowing the impossi-bility of including all. His list of authors of whom we have biographies, and of most, specimens, numbers seventy, of whom there are thirteen divines, twelve political writers, three historians, twenty-six novelists and tale writers, fourteen essayists, a traveller, a naturalist, and an ethnographer. Mr. Headley is the chief traveller. Where are Stephens and Macken-Certainly they should not have been omitted. The former has connected his name throughout the world with the great American antiquities, and has been the most widely read of all our travellers, as Slidell was one of the earliest and best known. Melville should have had a place for his Typee. Does Mr. Griswold's new notions of nationality exclude Paine, who did some service to the country in his day, Dr. Lieber and Mr. Catherwood from Kent? Where are the medical writers? Why is the late Colonel Stone's name not mentioned? Would this have been the case were he still living at the head of an influen-tial newspaper? Where is Leggett's biogra-Why is there not a chapter devoted to the Press, with some specimens of perhaps the most characteristic of American writings? Why are there fourteen columns of Verplanck and none of Professors Robinson and Stuart?

As the greater number of the authors mentioned in Mr. Griswold's book will in no long time come under our notice in various ways, it is the less necessary on this occasion to bring the writers forward by extracts from these biographical sketches. There are many these biographical sketches. to whom the work will be of use, though it should be received by all with allowance for its weakness and its prejudices. A critical history of the literature of the country, worthy to send forth to the world, is a work which still remains to be accomplished. Such a work will certainly exhibit the national intellect in much more favorable light than Mr. Griswold, with all his opportunities, has attained in this big and little book.

The Estray: a Collection of Poems. Boston: Ticknor & Co., 1847. 16mo., pp. 144.

In selecting and arranging the delicate verses of fine poets, Professor Longfellow is perfectly at home. The forte of this elegant, rather than rich original poet, is the disposition of other men's thoughts, with the gift of being able generally to add a rare beauty to heighten the coloring, or soften it; to refine what is harsh, and to add a grace beyond the reach of (ordinary) Art. Now, although the collection (it should have been a selection) is a most agreeable one, from the intrinsic beauty of the separate pieces; yet, as a whole, it is a misno-These rare gifts to the world are, in a majority of the cases, from classic, well-known sources. They are not estrays. The table of sources. They are not estrays. The table of contents and the motto to the volume conflict, palpably, as any one may readily perceive. Of fifty-four poems, but nine are marked anonymous, while of the remaining forty-five, some are from contemporary authors, in whose writings they have been quite lately published; some are standards, popularly known; and the rest, if not quite so well known as the others, ought to be, and can be easily turned to in Choice" is altogether an old acquaintance, but journals, as Tait's and Douglas Jerrold's those volumes "which no gentleman's library we can't recall the name, though we seem to

should be without.' If a tithe of them are not by well-known bards, and their best efforts, that is not sufficient to authorize the stigmatizing the well-known and highly favored offspring of the poet's brains, under a title equivalent to that of obscure foundlings of the luse, unworthy of general attention.

Still the anthology is a choice one, and we are happy to see the old fashion, so prevalent in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in England, revived in these days by such collections as the "Waif," and the "Estray;" and the Century of Christian Poems, now appearing in the columns of the Christian Inquirer. We like these "Wreaths" and "Garlands," as they were formerly called, and could suggest others of a similar kind. A new collection of ballads, for instance, English and Scotch, from Chevy Chase to Macaulay's two fine shorter, ballads; a collection that shall include all that is really fine in Percy, Scott, Evans, Ritson, &c. Then a collection of the best English songs, from the chanson à boire all mention whatever? Was not Albert Gallatin in Gammer Gurton's Needle, to the last new entitled to a Biography? Where is Chancellor song of Barry Cornwall. Then a really select American Anthology (we have none, though specimens, commonplace books, &c., are rife), and for which we could point out rare gems, as yet collected into no book. A collection of the kind, for which there is abundant room, should contain genuine, fine poems, of which the author is quite unknown, or the masterly, fugitive efforts of known authors, who are not rated among the minor poets, chiefly because

they have written long poems.
The making up of this anthology should fall into the hands of a fine critical judge of poetry, rather than a poet. For some reason or another, poets have made the worst poetic selec-tions: look at Southey's and Campbell's, which are miracles of tastelessness and insensibility, while Hazlitt's and Cattermole's are (especially Hazlitt's) as near what such books should be, as we can well conceive. Either from fear of giving offence, or a defect of judgment, personal partiality or prejudice, in favor of certain schools or forms of writing, poets often make wretched critics. Here among ourselves, after all the collections of American verse, we cannot yet show the true poetical talent of the country. An anthology is yet to be made up, to give foreigners a just conception of the purity, fineness, sentiment, and

delicate grace of our best writers.

We meet old familiar faces in the present volume, and others whose acquaintance we have made lately, a few new names, and as many anonymous writers. Yet we cannot account for a perversity of judgment that every now and then occurs. There are many finer poems of Cowley, for instance, than that on Solitude, fine as it is, but not so fine as the charming essay in which it first appeared. Many much richer pieces might be quoted from Vaughan, than the one here inserted. So, too, we may say of Norris, whose Choice is his

The selections from later English poets, Mrs. Southey, Hood, Tennyson, Milnes, Sterling, Miss Barrett, are "choicely good," but how they can be called Estrays, surpasses our understanding. We are as much at a loss to account for the introduction of poems by Dryden, Wordsworth, Hunt, Keats, in such a category.

The anonymous pieces well deserve to be "pounded;" they are truly poetical estrays, though the manner of two of them is not alknow the face of the author. "Conjugal Content" reminds us of Doctor Cotton, whose visions contain some pleasing verse, and that charming Fire-Side Lamb loved so well.

The American poets here introduced into the society of their compeers across the water, and their elder brothers in the Art Poetical, are among our best. The poems by Allston, Bryant, and Whittier, in particular, are truly Not quite so well known as the contents of this volume in general, are two finished poems: the lines on "Uhland," prefixed to a series of graceful versions from his muse, by W. A. Butler, son of our distinguished fellowcitizen, Benjamin F. Butler, and now travelling abroad; and "A Morning, but no Sun," by T. B. Read, a young poet, who has lately collected his first offerts in the venhas lately collected his first efforts, in the venture of a book.

We will give the reader a treat, by transferring these choice poems to our colums.

UHLAND.

- " It is the Poet Uhland from whose wreathings Of rarest harmony, I here have drawn,
 To lower tones and less melodious breathings,
 Some simple strains of truth and passion born.
- " His is the poetry of sweet expression,
 Of clear unfultering tune, serene and strong;
 Where gentlest thoughts and words in soft procession, Move to the even measures of his song.
- " Delighting ever in his own calm fancies, He sees much beauty where most men see naught, Looking at Nature with familiar glances, And weaving garlands in the groves of Thought.
- ⁶ He sings of Youth, and Hope, and high Endeavor, He sings of Love (oh crown of Poesie!), Of Fate, and Sorrow, and the Grave, for ever The end of strife, the goal of Destiny.
- "He sings of Fatherland, the minstrel's giory, High theme of memory and hope divine, Twining its fame with gems of antique story, In Suabian songs and legends of the Rhine;
- " In Ballads breathing many a dim tradition, Nourished in long belief or Minstrei rhymes, Fruit of the old Romance, whose gentle mission Passed from the earth before our wiser times.
- " Well do they know his name amongst the mountains, And plains, and valleys of his native Land; Part of their nature are the sparkling fountains Of his clear thought, with rainbow fancies spanned.
- ⁴⁴ His simple lays oft sings the mother cheerful Beside the cradle in the dim twilight; His plaintive notes low breathes the maiden tearful With tender murmurs in the ear of Night.
- "The hill-side swain, the reaper in the meadows, Carol his ditties through the toilsome day; And the lone hunter in the Alpine shadows, Recalls his ballads by some ruin grey.
- " Oh precious gift! oh wondrous inspiration!
 Of all high deeds, of all harmonious things,
 To be the Oracle, while a whole Nation
 Catches the echo from the sounding strings.
- " Out of the depths of feeling and emotion Rises the orb of Song, screnely bright, As who beholds across the tracts of occas The golden sunrise bursting into light.
- " Wide is its magic World,-divided neither Wide is its magic World,—divided neither By continent, nor sea, nor narrow zone; Who would not wish sometimes to travel thither, In fancied fortunes to forget his own?"

Mr. Read's verses should be read with Longfellow's "Rainy Day," and a similar poem, by Emerson. They express a peculiar mood of mind, into which the most indifferent must sometimes fall, and into which the most logically intellectual may sometimes wander.

A MORNING, BUT NO SUN.

A MORNING, BUT NO SUN.

"The morning comes, but brings no sun;
The sky with storm is overrun;
And here I sit in my room alone,
And feel, as I hear the tempest moan,
Like one who hath lost the last and best,
The dearest dweller from his breast!
For every pleasant sight and sound.
The sorrows of the sky have drowned;
The bell within the neighboring tower
Falls blurred and distant through the shower;
Look where I will, hear what I may,
All, all the world seems far away!
The dreary shutters creak and swing,

The windy willows sway and fling A double portion of the rain Over the weeping window-pane. But I, with gusty sorrow swayed, Sit hidden here, like one afraid, And would not on another throw One drop of all this weight of woe!

We rejoice to see the exquisite strains (inspired by religious enthusiasm) of Norris, Quarles, Vaughan, Herrick, and Crashaw, are revived by Longfellow, and in the series in the Christian Inquirer. A divine Anthology, and an American Anthology are more neednoble. The first originally appeared in one of Coleridge's own early volumes. And an American Anthology are more needNot quite so well known as the contents of ed than any other poetical collections to purify the public taste, and educate the popular senti-

> The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America. By John James Audubon, F.R.S., &c., and the Rev. John Bachman, D.D., &c., &c.

SECOND PAPER.

THE first volume of letter-press is very properly opened with the Genus Lynx. Mr. Audubon and Dr. Bachman have exhibited tact in this selection. No genus, not even that of the Felines, of which this is a sub-genus, is, to a remoter period, identified more entirely with the legendary, classic, and romantic history of our race. As with all the most remarkable animals of the Old World, it has been invested with miraculous attributes. We can trace some allusion to its imaginary powers of sight in the metaphors of the old Hebrew Prophets-the elder oriental literature has many such—while Greece has given us its present name, and perpetuated in classic fable the apparent reality of all that has thus descended to us. It has been represented as seeing through stone walls, and performing sundry other pro-digies of a like nature. The startling light in its eye has very naturally given rise to such superstitions. This animal, as well as the Ocelot, next of kin to it in the Felines, and also the smallest of that tribe, is remarkable for a keen electrical fierceness in its glance, which is not so much perceived in that of the larger Felines. Their eyes have a deep slumberous stillness which only breaks into flashes when they are thoroughly aroused, while these smaller creatures emit incessantly the alert fires of a tameless ferocity, which seems to know no repose. This is in singular analogy with the differences in the expression of great and small natures in our own race. vivid restless eye is almost the infallible indication of shallowness, while the grave, full, and majestic spirit slumbers when unroused. The Genus Lynx seems to be confined to no climate, and to be nearly as universally as anciently known. As yet we have eight species, six of which are strictly defined.

Africa has one, Persia two, Arabia one, and Europe two. Mr. Audubon is of opinion that America has only two. Rafinesque thinks that he has increased the species of this genus to fifteen !- which being accepted, would of course give us a larger proportion. Indeed, we have no doubt it is owing to peculiar circumstances connected with the history of the animal on our own continent, that this imaginary accession to the species has originated. We were for a long period disposed, with Ra-finesque, to believe that this genus had very many subdivisions unrecognised by naturalists. There are several causes why its strict definition should be greatly complicated even to naturalists. Mr. Audubon admits only two species-the Bay Lynx [Lynx Rufus], the one under consideration, and the Canada Lynx [Lynx Canadensis]. Now the Lynx Rufus, so far as ascertained, is to be met with throughout the immense territory, which, beginning at the northern Lakes, extends due west to the Pacific, and

sweeping from sea to sea due south, is bounded by the Rio Grande. We should not be surprised then, that a race distributed over a surface so vast in extent, comprising every variety of physical feature, should vary somewhat in its characteristics. But there is no creature in the whole range of mammalogy, which affords greater and more singular variations from the accepted standards of measurement and markings, than this of the Lynx Rufus. In the first place, it is almost impossible to find the pelage of any two specimens alike. We had first noticed this fact during extended travels on the frontiers of the north and southwest. It was on the frontiers of Western Missouri and Iowa, that we first observed the variations in marking of the pelage, length of tail, size of paw, &c., which were exhibited in the different specimens which fell in our way. After an extended tour up the Missouri, among its head-waters, and in which we met with many specimens just killed, we returned to St. Louis. This city is the great dépôt of the fur trade. Our curiosity had been excited, and here, through the courtesy of their owners, we had an opportunity of examining the immense fur warehouses of that place. We found from one to three and five thousand skins of the Lynx Rufus (Aud.) collected in them. We were immeasurably astonished to perceive that scarcely two of the skins we found in this great number, agreed either in markings, or length of tail. We examined them very carefully, and thought our fore-gone conclusion fully sustained—i. e., that the Lynx Rufus was a cross of the Lynx Canadensis upon the Ocelot. We could not resist the conclusion that the former had met the latter upon some middle ground, and perpetuated this hybrid We saw it assimilating the peculiar species. rosetted markings of the Ocelot, from the faint round spots and bars which mark the pelage of the Lynx Canadensis, up to its more distinct and complicated lines. Then the length of the tail varied from two to five inches, and we observed that the elegance and distinctness of the markings varied in a ratio with the length of the tail. We were of course puzzled, along with Rafinesque. saw, as we had observed in the fresh specimens, that as the length of the tail approached that of the Ocelot, so the markings of the pelage resembled those of the Ocelot. On a tour to the southwest, in which we explored the whole region west of the Rocky Mountains, and south to the Rio Grande, our experience was identical-few days passed in which we did not see the Lynx Rufus or the Ocelot, either dead or alive. No wonder then that there has been some doubt about the varieties of this genus. But the most peculiar mark externally, by which the Genus Lynx is to be distinguished, is the tuft of hair upon the point of the ears; this varies greatly with the climate, season, &c. The true Lynx has a clearly defined pencil of hair which sharpens and elongates the outline of the ear. All the Felines have the rudiment of this tuft. The Lynx Rufus only has it characteristically defined when in *full pelage*. In transition stages it is nearly as fully developed in the Ocelot. Hence another cause of confusion! Owing to all these difficulties, no accurate classification of even so common an animal would ever have been obtained, but that the severe and analytical definitions of Cuvier—so much despised by the schools of Linnæus and Buffon, had been accepted by Mr. Audubon and Dr. Bachman. The anatomical system of Cuvier settles all doubts at once, and shows us that the Lynxes differ from the Felines in the "fixed fact" that there is one tooth less on each side in the upper jaw! This for ever sets the question to rest of different markings of pelage, length of tail, &c. These we must refer to the accidents of climate, season, and location. We therefore deferentially accept the eclectic definition of Mr. Audubon, as better than our own vague conclusions. He says in general terms that—

"There are, however, at all seasons of the year, even in the same neighborhood, stronglymarked varieties, and it is difficult to find two in-

dividuals precisely alike.

"Some specimens are broadly marked with fulvus under the throat, whilst in others the throat as well as the chin are grey. In some the stripes on the back and spots along the sides are very distinctly seen, whilst in others they are scarcely visible, and the animal is greyish-brown above, with a dark dorsal stripe."

In relation to the appearance of the animal, he says:

"The general appearance of this species conveys the idea of a degree of ferocity, which cannot with propriety be considered as belonging to its character, although it will, when at bay, show its sharp teeth, and with outstretched claws and infuriated despair, repel the attacks of either man or dog, sputtering the while, and rolling its

eyes like the common cat.

"It is, however, generally cowardly when attacked, and always flies from its pursuers, if it can, and although some anecdotes have been related to us of the strength, daring, and fierceness of this animal; such as its having been known to kill, at different times, a sheep, a full-grown doe, attack a child in the woods, &c.; yet in all the instances that have come under our own notice, we have found it very timid, and always rather inclined to beat a retreat, than to make an attack on any animal larger than a hare or a young pig."

The editors are here both right and wrong. That the animal has been as formidable as its appearance would indicate, there can be no doubt. But they seem to have left out of view the effect which the port of the civilized man with his terrible weapon, the fire-arm, has always had in quelling and modifying the nature of savage brutes. The Felines and all the sub-genera seem to have been peculiarly susceptible of such influences. In the earliest accounts of British India, we remember that the tiger sometimes devastated a whole district—a single animal carrying death and ter-ror throughout its limits. The formidable riror throughout its limits. The formidable ri-fles of the English officers have had such effect that now tiger-hunting is rather a recreation than a dangerous sport. Before the introduction of fire-arms into Africa, it was a common thing for a single lion to ravage and almost depopulate a whole village of the imbecile natives. Now such things are never heard of on the coast. From Central Africa, where fire-arms are less known, missionaries and travellers bring reports of the same character. It is no uncommon thing for hundreds of warriors to assemble with their bows and lances to attack a single lion. The story of progress and settlement in this country furnishes analogous facts. The frontier legends of all the Central, Western and Southern States, furnish innumerable facts of the same character. We know of many instances in which the wild cat has, in the rutting season, attacked, without provocation, grown persons.

In our expeditions to the Far West and Southwest we have personally observed several instances of this kind. On the headwaters of the Platt and Arkansas, we know of, or have witnessed unprovoked attacks from both the Felines and the Lynx. In these wild

regions, the empressement of the formidable rifle had not been felt. That the panther and wild cat are sufficiently timid now, wherever the rifle has been carried or our trained packs of dogs have bayed, we readily admit. This dread has even penetrated the deep swamps and fastnesses of "the States," but in those remote and vast solitudes where the rifle has not been heard, or the subtle prowess of the civilized man been felt, these creatures are still formidable, and wait only for the opportunity and the mood to attack our race. Had we space, we might relate several instances in illustration, from our own personal experience. But our editors give anecdotes which exhibit their view of the case strongly.

"In the American Turf Register, there is an interesting extract of a letter from Dr. Coleman, U.S.A., written at Fort Armstrong, Prairie du Chien, giving an account of a contest between an eagle and a wild cat. After a fierce struggle, in which the eagle was so badly wounded as to be unable to fly, the cat, scratched and pierced in many places, and having had one eye entirely 'gouged out' in the combat, was found lying dead.

During a botanical excursion through the swamps of the Edisto river, our attention was attracted by the barking of a small terrier at the foot of a sapling (young tree). On looking up, we observed a wild cat, about twenty feet from the ground, of at least three times the size of the dog, which he did not appear to be much afraid of. He seemed to have a greater dread of man, however, than of this diminutive specimen of the canine race, and leaped from the tree as we drew near."

With all the timidity this anecdote is in-tended to illustrate, the wild cat, from its desperate fighting and cunning, affords a very exciting sport to the hunter. When overtaken by the dogs, several of them are frequently killed by it, and Mr. Audubon gives some anecdotes of its subtlety in eluding pursuit which would do credit to Reynard himself. One of them is, that he makes for some half-dried swamp or pond, and runs into the moist and sticky clay, seeming to be aware that the stockings with which his legs would be defended when he came out, would prevent the scent being deposited from his feet, and dull the trail! A shrewd conjecture that! but not as we think, particularly plausible, for in a few bounds the mire would be rubbed off the soles of his feet, and leave him as badly off as ever. The editors give a fine graphic sketch of the mode of hunting the wild cat by daylight in Carolina. This we cannot refrain from extracting in conclusion for the present, while we promise to furnish in our next a sketch of the "night hunt!"

"Arrangements for the cat-hunt are made over night. Two or three neighbors form the party, each one bringing with him all the hounds he can muster. We have seen thirty of the latter brought together on such occasions, some of which were not inferior to the best we have examined in England; indeed, great numbers of the finest fox-hounds are annually imported into Carolina.

"At the earliest dawn, the party is summoned to the spot previously fixed on as the place of meeting. A horn is sounded, not low and with a single blast, as is usual in hunting the deer, lest the timid animal should be startled from its bed among the broom-grass (Andropagon dissitiflorus) and bound away out of the drive, beyond the reach of the hunter's double-barrel loaded with buckshot; but with a loud, long, and oft-repeated blast, wakening the echoes that rise from the rice-fields and marshes, and are reverberated from shore to shore of the winding sluggish river, until lost among the fogs and shadows of the distant force:

"An answering horn is heard half a mile off, and anon comes another response from a different quarter. The party is soon collected, they are mounted, not on the fleetest and best-blooded horses, but on the most sure-footed (sometimes 'Old field Tackies'), which know how to avoid the stump-holes on the burnt grounds of the pine lands, which stand the fire of the gun, and which can not only go with tolerable speed, but are, to use a common expression, 'tough as a pine knot.' The hunters greet each other in the open-hearted manner characteristic of the southern planter. Each pack of dogs is under the guidance of a colored driver, whose business it is to control the hounds, and encourage and aid them in the hunt. The drivers ride in most cases the fleetest horses on the ground, in order to be able, whilst on a deer hunt, to stop the dogs. These men, who are so important to the success of the chase, are possessed of a good deal of intelligence and shrewdness, are usually much petted, and regarding themselves as belonging to the aristocracy of the plantation, are apt to look down upon their fellow-servants as inferiors, and consider themselves privileged even to crack a joke with their masters. The drivers are ordered to stop the dogs if a deer should be started, a circumstance which often occurs, and which has saved the life of many a cat, whose fate, five minutes before this unlucky occurrence, was believed to be sealed. Orders are given to destroy the cat fairly, by running him down with the hounds, or if this cannot be done, then by shooting him, if he ascends a tree, or approaches within gun shot of the stand which the hunter has selected as the most likely place for him to pass near. The day is most auspiciousthere is not a breath of wind to rustle the falling leaves, nor a cloud to throw its shadows over the wide, joyous landscape. The dew-drops are sparkling on the few remaining leaves of the persimmon tree, and the asters and dog-fennel hang drooping beneath their load of moisture. dogs are gambolling in circles around, and ever and anon, in spite of all restraint, the joyous note breaks forth—the whole pack is impatient for the chase, and the young dogs are almost frantic with excitement.

"But we have not time for a further description of the scene—whilst we are musing and gazing, the word is given, 'go!' and off start the hounds, each pack following its own driver to different parts of the old fields, or along the borders of the swamps and marshes. Much time, labor, and patience, are usually required, before the 'cat' can be found by the dogs: sometimes there is a sudden burst from one or the other of the packs, awakening expectation in the minds of the huntsmen, but the driver is not to be so easily deceived, as he has some dogs that never open at a rabbit, and the snap of the whip soon silences the riotous young babblers. Again there is a wild burst and an exulting shout, giving assurance that better game than a rabbit is on foot; and now is heard a distant shot, succeeded in a second of time by another, and for an instant all is still: the echoes come roaring up through the woods, and as they gradually subside, the crack of the whip is again heard stopping the dogs. The story is soon told; a deer had been started—
the shot was too small—or the distance too great, or any other excuses (which are always at hand among hunters of fertile imagination) are made by the unsuccessful sportsman who fired, and the dogs are carried back to the 'trail' of the cat, that has been growing fresher and fresher for the last half hour. At length, 'Trimbush' (and a good dog is he), that has been working on the cold trail for some time, begins to give tongue in a way that brings the other dogs to his aid. The drivers now advance to each other, encouraging their dogs; the trail becomes a drag; onward it goes through a broad marsh at the head of a rice-field. 'He will soon be started now!'
'He is up!' What a burst! you might have
heard it two miles off—it comes in mingled sounds, roaring like thunder, from the muddy marsh and from the deep swamp. The barred owl, frightened from the monotony of his quiet life among the cypress trees, commences hooting in mockery, as it were, of the wide mouthed hounds. Here they come, sweeping through the resounding swamp like an equinoctial stormthe crackling of a reed, the shaking of a bush, a glimpse of some object that glided past like a shadow, is succeeded by the whole pack, rat-tling away among the vines and fallen timbers, and leaving a trail in the mud as it a pack of wolves in pursuit of a deer had hurried by. The cat has gone past. It is now evident that he will not climb a tree. It is almost invariably the case, that where he can retreat to low, swampy situations, or brier patches, he will not take a tree, but seeks to weary the dogs by making short windings among the almost impassable brier patches. He has now been twisting and turning three or four acres—let us go in and take our stand on the very trail where he last passed, and shoot him if we can. A shot is heard on the opposite edge of the thicket, and again all is still; but once more the pack is in full cry. Here he comes, almost brushing our legs as he dashes by and disappears in the bushes, before we can get sight of him and pull trigger. But we see that the dogs are every moment pressing him closer, that the marauder is showing evidences of fatigue and is nearly 'done up.' He begins to make narrower circles, there are restless flashes in his eye, his back is now curved upwards, his hair is bristled nervously forward, his tongue hangs out —we raise our gun as he is approaching, and scarcely ten yards off—a loud report—the smoke has hardly blown aside, ere we see him lifeless, almost at our very feet—had we waited three minutes longer, the hounds would have saved us the powder and shot !"

The Contributions of Q. Q. to a Periodical Work; with some pieces not before published. New York: Robert Carter. 2 vols., 18mo., pp. 295, 268.

Correspondence between a Mother and her Daughter at School. By Mrs. Taylor and Jane Taylor. New York: Robert Carter.

18mo., pp. 125.

Essays in Rhyme: or Morals and Manners, with the Poetical Remains of the late Jane Taylor. New York: Robert Carter. 18mo., pp. 180.

Memoirs and Correspondence of Jane Taylor. By Isaac Taylor, author of Natural History of Enthusiasm. New York: Robert Carter. 18mo., pp. 274.

A NEAT uniform edition, in excellent type and at a low price, of a series of books which should find a place in every Sunday School and District Library and at every fireside where indeed they are already to a considerable extent familiar volumes. The mind of Jane Taylor recalls to us two pure associations, the poet Cowper and Mrs. Southey. In the Essays in Rhyme we are reminded of the former. while the occasional verses have something of the sentiment and naturalness of the latter, though perhaps without the wider culture of the wife of Southey. Jane Taylor was born in 1783, and died in 1823. It is an illustrious name in English literature—the honors of which are sustained at the present day by her brother, the author of the Natural History of Enthusiasm, and by the author of Philip Van Artevelde. The daughter of an artist, who subsequently became a dissenting clergyman, the home of Jane Taylor was a fountain of intellect and purity, of which her various writings were the simple outpourings. The play-ful yet earnest little essays and sketches which she sent to a juvenile magazine, and which were afterwards collected as the "Contributions of Q. Q.," are classics in a difficult school of

began to write for her young friends while she was still a child, having very early developed a faculty of writing very good verses, indeed commencing with her tenth year. The first piece of poetry which she published was a contribution to a juvenile annual, the "Beggar Boy." It has a simplicity and vein of feeling which will not be readily exhausted:

THE BEGGAR BOY.

I'm a poor little beggar, my mamma is dead; My daddy is naughty, and gives me no bread; O'er London's wide streets all the day long I roam, And when night comes on, I've got never a home.

I would not be idle, like some wicked boys, So I got me a basket with trinkets and toys; Nobody was e'er more industrious than I, Nobody more willing to sell, if you'll buy.

I've Bonaparte's life, and adventures, and birth, And histories of all the great men of the earth: Enigmas, and riddles, and stories complete: Come buy them, dear ladies, a penny a sheet.

Here's cottons, and bobbins, and leces so white, And thimbies, and scissors, well polished and bright: Fine pictures of Frenchmen, and Tartar, and Swede; And Darton's gay books for good children to read.

I've all the debates, in the parliament made, On sinecures, pensions, and taxes new laid; Accounts of the battles by land and by sea, That were fought in one thousand eight hundred and

In summer, gay flowers and nosegays I sell, Sweet cowslips, and roses, and jasmines to smell: Water-cresses for breakfast, fresh gathered and green, From bad weeds and hemlock picked careful and clean.

But alas! 't is in vain that I mournfully cry, And hold out my basket to all who pass I fancy they're thinking of other affairs For they seem not to notice or me or my

"I would get me a place that was decent and clean, Though in a capacity ever so mean; But nobody credits a word that I say, For they call me a vagrant, and turn me away.

"In the evening I wander, all hungry and cold, And the bright Christmas fires through the v behold:
Ah, while the gay circles such comforts enjoy, They think not of me, a poor perishing boy!

"Oh, had I a coat, if 't were ever so old, This poor trembling body to screen from the cold; Or a hat from the weather to shelter my head; Or an old pair of shoes, or a morsel of bread!

"T is aimost a fortnight since I 've tasted meat; Pray give a poor creature a mouthful to eat; And while you in plenty all comforts enjoy; Oh, think upon me, a poor perishing boy!"

A satirical passage in her poem of Prejudice, descriptive of the vulgar wife of the vulgar Mayor, is indicative of her humor:

What once was right or wrong, or high or low In her opinion, always must be so:— You might, perhaps, with reasons new and pat, Have made Columbus think the world was flat; Have made Columbus think the world was flat; There might be times of energy worn out, When his own theory would Sir Isaac doubt: But not the powers of argument combined Could make this dear good woman change her mind. Or give her intellect the slightest clew To that vast world of things she never knew. Were but her brain dissected, it would show Her stout opinions fastened in a row, Ranged duly, side by side, without a gap, Much like the plaiting on her Sunday cap."

Many passages of the Correspondence furnish suggestive matter for thought. The prevailing seriousness is not unmingled with cheerful topics, though it may have been that the writer's dread, in an artificial time, of mere literary effect, prevented her giving full expression to her genius. We quote two brief passages which exhibit her sentiment and her liberality, founded on good sense:

TO THE SAME.

* What a pity it is that language should be so much abused, that what is really Colchester, June 28, 1814. the poet has most to complain. He feels, and perhaps his whole soul is filled with a passage which ninety nine of his hundred readers, at least, will peruse without emotion. This struck composition—writings for the young. The me in reading the first line of Thalaba—'How own breasts, equally displeasing in the sight of secret of their success may be, that the author beautiful is night,' which may be read without a heart-searching God."

leaving the smallest impression. at first; but returning to it, and endeavoring to enter into the feeling with which it was written, I found it to be—" How beautiful is night!" and I discovered in these simple words all those inexpressible emotions with which I so often contemplate the dark blue depths, and of which, even Southey could say nothing more striking than-- 'How beautiful is night!'

"You mention novels :-- you have read one or two here; and may conclude we are in the continual habit of perusing them. I believe in all my life I have read, and heard read, about a dozen-it may be twenty:-and though I think it injudicious to suffer very young girls to read even a good novel, if there be love in it, yet I must maintain the opinion that most, or many of those I have read were of a beneficial, and not of a hurtful tendency. I would as soon read some of Miss Edgeworth's or Miss Hamilton's novels, with a view to moral improvement, as Foster's Essays; and I have too high an opinion of your good sense and liberality, to suppose that, after a candid perusal of these, and some few other good novels (for the number of good ones I readily allow to be very small) you would repeat that, 'to read them was incompatible with love to God.' You oblige me to recur to a hackneyed argument, that the abuse of a thing should not set aside its use.

" Do not say I am pleading for an indiscriminate indulgence in novel reading for an indiscriminate indulgence in novel reading, or a frequent perusal of the very best of nevels:—that, in common with every innocent recreation, may be easily carried to a hurtful excess: but you seem to me to fancy some fatal spell to attend the very name of novel, in a way that we should smile at, as narrow-minded and ignorant, in an envelopment of novel, in the specific product of percent all Luich. uneducated person: all I wish you to admitall I think myself is, that it is a possible thing for a book to be written, bearing the general form, appearance, and name of a novel, in the form, appearance, and name of a novel, in the cause of virtue, morality, and religion;—and then, that to read such a book is by no means 'incompatible with love to God,' or in the least displeasing in his sight. I think you will not hesitate to admit this; and then we exactly agree in our opinions of 'plays and novels.'
That plays, and bad novels, are 'poisons which
Satan frequently insinuates' with too great success, I have no more doubt of than yourself. Yet if I am not mistaken, he has some still more potent venoms;—if I might judge from myself, there are ways, in the most private life, in domestic scenes, in solitary retirements, by which Satan can as effectually operate on the heart, as in a crowded theatre. I believe I might read a hundred novels, and attend as many plays, and have my heart less drawn from God, than by those common pursuits and interests which, while it would be sinful to avoid them, I cannot engage in without sin. It is in the realities of life, and not merely in the fictions that occasionally amuse us, that I find the most baneful poisons, the most effectual weaners from 'love to God.

"I think many people 'strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel,' in these very circumstances; and Satan willingly suffers them to abstain with holy horror from the theatre, or to throw aside a novel with abhorrence—so that the idol, the real idol he has erected in their hearts, receive real idol he has erected in their hearts, receive its daily worship. You cannot suppose I am bringing this forward by way of argument, for the one or the other; but it always appears to me that people begin at the wrong end, when they attack such errors as these. One might as well expect to demolish a building by pulling down enterpret while the pillars. down some external ornament, while the pillars were left unmoved; and I think many who ex-claim with vehemence against those who indulge in some of the vain pleasures of the world (for which probably themselves have no relish, and from which, therefore, it costs them little selfdenial to abstain), would do well to examine if there be not some favorite idol within their The American Journal of Science and Art. Conducted by Professors B. Silliman and B. Silliman, Jr, and James D. Dana. 2d Series. No. 8. March, 1847. New Haven: printed for the Editors by B. L. Hamlin.

SILLIMAN'S Journal is the oldest and perhaps the only channel of purely scientific information between this country and Europe. It has been the record of the devotion and energy of the first pioneers in the untrodden fields of investigation in the New World. What changes in the state of most of the sciences since the first establishment of the journal; and how few of the enthusiastic band that were the compeers of the senior editor now remain !

It would be a work of supererogation to recommend to men of scientific pursuits that which is indispensable. But there is a large class of men engaged in the ordinary business of life, who might just as well be aware of the new discoveries of the day as not. We allude We allude to those, who in the course of youthful education have made themselves reasonably well acquainted with Natural History and science generally; but after entering the duties of active life, have neglected to keep fresh their information, by omitting to procure a medium through which to learn the results of new investigations. The advantage of taking a scientific journal must be obvious to the good sense of such per-sons. Every two months, a few evenings may be devoted to read up all that has transpired of interest on these topics; and thus a popular acquaintance is acquired almost at a glance, which tends to keep the old foundations of scientific education solidly in the mind.

In the present number is a Review of the Geology of Russia, by M. E. De Verneuil, on the presentation of the joint work of the reviewer, Sir R. J. Murchison and Count A. Von Keyserling, on that subject, to the Geological Society of France. The work reviewed must be of extreme value to geologists, adding so vast a field as Russia in Europe, and the chain of the Ural, to the domain of exact observation. There is likewise a review of the New York Geological Reports. The whole of Western Europe, the greater part of the United States, and now Ruscould not know more of the constitution of our planet as connected with the development of animal and vegetable life, if we could animal and vegetable life, if we could penetrate to the central fire. And it seems that if the mass of information now obtained were digested and popularized, a more valuable work than any yet issued on the subject of geology would be As it regards the New York survey, obtained. As it regards the New York survey, we think it a great pity that duplicate specimens of the various fossils and rocks were not left in each county where they were found, in the office and under the care of the county This collection might have been easily made, and together with a copy of the Reports to be deposited in the custody of the same officer, would have been a convenience to travel-lers, and stimulated the inhabitants to acquire local geological knowledge of their vicinity. The district school teachers might thus with comparative ease have mastered the principles of the science and the methods of observation; all that they required were an elementary book, and access to the reports and the specimens; and in each district school a cabinet would have speedily arisen to rival the central one at the county town.

Mr. Dana and Professor Dewey continue serial papers, the one on Zoophytes, the other on the genus Carex. The former has contributed a very interesting speculation on the geological results of the earth's contraction in cooling. He assumes the igneous liquidity of the earth as the basis of his theory. After the earth has suffi-ciently cooled to admit of the gathering of the waters into an ocean, it is supposed that the general tendency would be to a greater contrac-tion beneath the water; thus the lands will on the whole gradually rise above the level of the sea, while the waters retire to the deepened bed.

Connected with this theory is the observation that mountains appear to have been elevated along the margin of the continent existing at the time of their upheaval; and that in the more newly elevated chains, as the Appalachi-an, the folds or plication of the strata are more abrupt in the vicinity of the sea.

The reports of Captain Fremont's expeditions furnish to the journalist a subject of more than usual interest. And the energy of the explorer, and the contributions made by him to our knowledge of the vast regions he traversed, merit the commendation and honors he has obtained.

In the paper on the Hybridity of Animals, the writer, Dr. Morton, concludes that fertile hybridity is evolved among animals in proportion to their aptitude for domestication; and that since different species of animals do produce a prolific hybrid offspring, "the fact, that the several races of mankind produce a more or less fertile progeny constitutes in itself no proof of the unity of the human race." The articles which follow, are an abstract of meteorological observations at Marietta, Ohio, by Dr. Hildreth, with remarks on the habits of the seventeen year Locust; an analysis of the Oat, by Prof. Norton, for which memoir the author received a prize of £50 from the Highland Agricultural ociety; observations on the Mounds of the West, by E. G. Squier, and the description of a fossil bone of the Palaeotherium by Dr. Prout. A very ingenious apparatus, invented by Dr. Page, exhibiting the motion of an electro-magnet on its axis without any support, is the subject of an article by the inventor, who is distinguished among magnetists for the fertility of his ingenuity in the contrivance of various machines. and appliances to procure motion by the aid of electro-magnetism. A copious and invaluable resumé of foreign intelligence in chemical science is furnished by Prof. Schaeffer, who from his very youth has been devoted to the cause of science, nor ever wandered from the pursuit. The foreign department contains a letter from Lyell the geologist, opposing the view of the coexistence of the human race with that of the Megatherium, founded on the discovery of a human bone, together with those of the Megatherium, in a bluff formation of the Mississippi, near Natchez.

We learn from the Journal that the Smithsonian Institution, as organized, is to consist of two departments-the one for the increase, the other for the diffusion of knowledge among men. Original researches will be fostered by aid in publishing, or by premiums, and these researches will be embodied in transactions. At the same time the diffusion of knowledge will be effected by lectures, by the publication of reports at the minimum cost, similar to those of the London Society, by collections of books, cabinets of natural history, and works of art. The organization will enable artists and inventors to exhibit their works in the halls of the Institution. The buildings are to be built by Mr. Renwick, and are to consist of a centre building and wings in the Roman style. It is judiciously suggested that the usefulness of the Institution should not be sacrificed to the mere pomp of architectural

The Law Reporter-February, 1847. Bos ton: Published by Bradbury & Guild, No. 12 School street. Philad.: J. K. Pollock. Balti-more: N. Hickman. Charleston, S. C.: S. Hart, sen.

THE February number of this journal contains the usual amount of valuable information to the public. The leading article is marked by soundness and ability. It is a review of the last volume of Day's Connecticut Reports, with an allusion to the general character of the series reported by that gentleman, who for more than forty years has been thus adding to the legal literature of the country. There are two or three cases that are judiciously criticised in the review, and a suggestion is made, as it regards the course of criminal practice in Connecticut, where the punishment is not by death or im- of the costs of an equation. The chapter on

prisonment for life, that may prove convenient in other States.

Four recent cases of interest are contained in the present number, reported at length. The last, in the Circuit Court of Petersburg in Virginia, decides that an enlistment into a volunteer company by a minor is a contract with the government, and is not binding on the infant, unless shown to be beneficial to him. Another case, bearing on the same subject, is alluded to, Another in which Judge Shaw of Massachusetts decided that the consent of a parent or guardian is necessary to make such an enlistment valid,

Among the obituary notices is that of Judge Martin, late presiding judge in the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Judge Martin was not only remarkable as one of the most profound jurists of the country, but the circumstances of his early life, the striking change in situation, from the poor French boy to the eminent judge, his integrity, learning, and great wealth, invest his fortunes with some of the interest of romance.

In the review of a new volume of Vermont Reports, a judicial joke is quoted that may indi-cate the simplicity of life in the Green Moun-tains. It seems that contracts for the delivery of specific articles in that State and in parts of Canada adjacent are treated as promissory notes. A new judge in Canada had resolutely, but in vain, set his face against the doctrine. worthy and learned justice of the queen's bench finally exclaimed in furore, and almost in despair, that he thought it was asking too much that the court should sit all day to determine the amount of damages to be assessed upon a promissory note! for a couple of middling likely young calves."

The Farmer's Companion; or, Essays on the Principles and Practice of American Husbandry. By the late Hon. Jesse Buel. Sixth edition, revised and enlarged. Harper & Brothers, 1847. 12mo. pp. 336.

A NEW edition of a work long since favorably received by the public, and which was originaly written for the Common School Libraries of Massachusetts, under the sanction of the Board of Education. In the hands of the present rub of Education. In the hands of the present pub-lishers, it will find its way through new channels to a still wider usefulness.

An Elementary Treatise on Mensuration and Practical Geometry; together with numerous problems of practical importance in Mecha-nics. By William Vogdes, Prof. of Mathe-matics in the Central High School of Philadelphia. Philad.: E. C. & J. Biddle, 1847. 12mo. pp. 299.

THE author claims for this work a practical character, adapted to the wants of those who do not pursue the branches of mathematical science taught in colleges, but into whose hands the industrial pursuits of the country chiefly The rules are illustrated by copious exam-The works of Bonnycastle, Haswell, Hutton, Gregory, and Grier, have been freely consult-

An Elementary Treatise on Algebra, in which the Principles of the Science are familiarly explained and illustrated by numerous examples, designed for the use of Schools. By Samuel Alsop, Principal of Friends' Select School, Philadelphia. Philad.: E. C. & J. Biddle, 1847. 12mo. pp. 288.

THE cool heads of the Friends should furnish good mathematicians. The design of this particular work is at once to simplify the processes of algebra, and to extend the range usually included in elementary works of the class. "The theory of equations has been much more fully developed than in any elementary treatise with which the author is acquainted. Care has been taken to preserve perfect rigor in the demonstrations. The theorem of M. Sturm, for which he obtained the mathematical prize from the French Academy, has been developed at some length; as well as the compendious method of Horner for approximating to the values

the Summation of Series has been principally taken from Young's Algebra; that on Binomial Equations from a treatise on the theory of equations by the same author. For the theory of the Diophantine Analysis, the author is principally indebted to the admirable treatise on algebra, by Euler."

LETHEON IN EUROPE.

THE Letheon, the discovery of which was announced in our earliest number, comes back to us from abroad with all the honors. The whole European press have given it welcome. The Times and the Debats have soberly discoursed upon its virtues. Punch and the Charivari, by their jokes, have made it classical. An intense contributor to the People's Journal with more regard for the Letheon than his readers, hails it thus :-

"WE HAVE CONQUERED PAIN .- This is indeed a glorious victory to announce; a victory of the pure intellect. And from America comes the happy news; from our brothers in another land, with whom we were lately going to war. Oh, shame be in the thought! This is indeed a glorious victory; but there is no blow struck, there has been no grappling together in the war of savage impulse, no bloodshed, no remorse. It is the victory of knowledge over ignorance, of good over evil: there is no alloy; all our finer sympathies are established in one universal prayer of grateful rejoicing. Benevolence has its It is a victory not for to-day, nor for our own time, but for another age, and all time -not for our own nation, but for all nations, from generation to generation, as long as the world shall last."

There is something more to the purpose than all this. The utility of the Letheon has received a further development from the experience of the great surgeons of Europe. By its means, surgical operations of every kind and degree of severity have been performed without pain. In Paris, M. Gerdy, a well known French surgeon of celebrity, has communicated through Arago to the Academy of Sciences the results of a trial of the Sulphuric Ether, which the Letheon is now understood to be, upon himself. The effect was as follows. A general sensation of numbness, similar to that produced by opium, which dulled the sense of touch. To this effect is attributable the insensibility to pain in surgical operations. The sense of hearing was to some extent affected, the senses of taste and smell not much, and the sense of sight not at all. The articulation became slower; the intelligence remained clear. The pulse remaining un-altered proved that the circulation was not affected.

In using Sulphuric Ether certain precautions are necessary. It should be pure. The test of its purity is its having a density of 735 or less, and its volume not being lessened when agitated in a minim measure, with half its volume of a concentrated solution of muriate of lime. Sulphuric Ether is made by mixing alcohol and sulphuric acid together, and always contains sulphurous acid and free alcohol, unless removed by lime and subsequent distilla-The vapor of ether should not be inhaled without a due admixture of atmospheric air. With too little it is irritating to the throat; with too much it is inert. It is well known that this vapor, when combined with the common air, constitutes an explosive gas. It therefore behooves all while using it to avoid any lighted body. If during its inhalation an explosion should take place, it would probably communicate itself to the interior of the chest of the patient, tear the bronchial tubes, and literally reduce the lungs to atoms.

The effect of the ether is somewhat like covered. It looks, however, that of alcohol. Mr. Lawrence, the London tion of the Boston discovery.

surgeon, tells us that he amputated the leg of a woman while she was drunk, and that she was not aware of it until she became so-We are told that in one case, the patient during a severe operation was "giving sly winks and facetious nods to those surrounding him. During the intervals of the inhalation his observations were of the most facetious character-forcing from the bystanders involuntary laughter, and converting that which was to the poor fellow the most tragic event into a scene little short of a farce.'

It is a mistake to suppose that the effect of the inhalation of sulphuric ether is never stimulating, and productive of increased muscular action. There is a great similarity between the influence of (nitrous oxide) laughing gas, and the ethereal vapor upon the sys-The control of the will continues to a certain degree, and the thought uppermost in the mind immediately preceding the in-halation, controls to some extent the effect. Thus, when nitrous oxide is taken for amusement, it enlivens and increases muscular movement. It is the same with the ether, which is frequently inhaled with the same object. Prior to a serious operation, the mind of course is braced to endurance of pain, and the effect is reversed.

The experience is not yet sufficiently extensive to justify a decided opinion in regard to the safety of the ether in operations. How will the number of cures after operations where the ethereal vapor is used, compare with that in cases where it is not? An extensive range of statistics will be necessary to decide this question. We are of opinion that a wider observation will result in the conclusion that the vapor of ether is by no means of universal applicability in surgery. A man whose leg was amputated without pain (he having inhaled the vapor), the other day, in the City Hospital, died subsequently from inflammation of the membrane covering the intestines (peritonitis), and upon examining his body, the lungs were found studded over with miliary tubercles in their earliest stage (the beginning of consumption). The cause of death was probably independent of the ether; but how far was the disease of the lungs just commenced owing to the introduction of this irritating va-Where there is any affection of the chest or disposition to it, the sulphuric ether is hardly safe. The same may be also said in regard to its use in certain conditions of the nervous system, debility, &c. It was stated in the former notice of this subject, that there were cases on record of dangerous results from breathing it. Dr. Beck in his Medical Jurisprudence states on the authority of a Dr. Mitchell, that delirium, inflammation of the brain, and death, have resulted in consequence.

Sulphuric ether in its ordinary fluid form has long been used in the treatment of disease. It has been applied for the first time in the form of vapor in a case of Tetanus (lockjaw) by Dr. Ranking, of London, but without success, the symptoms of the disease being made worse by its use.

Dr. Simpson of Edinburgh has used it with good success in a case of difficult parturition. In the Archives Générales de Medicine for the year 1828, we find a record to the effect that a Mr. Hickmann, an English surgeon, had written a letter to Charles X., announcing that he had, by means of the introduction of certain gases into the lungs, succeeded in rendering surgical operations painless. This passing allusion to the subject is all that can be discovered. It looks, however, like an anticipaRHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE annual meeting of this Society took place in Providence last month. The exercises on the occasion were of the most interesting character, and highly creditable to the Society, and to those who took part in the performances. We are indebted to the Providence Journal for the particulars of this meeting, and notices of the poem and oration.

"Albert G. Greene introduced with some pertinent remarks, an original poem by Mrs. Sarah H. Whitman. The subject was the advent of Roger Williams in Rhode Island, the great thoughts and principles of which he was the apostle and first exponent in New England, with a felicitous allusion to the places rendered me-morable by association with his name.

"The discourse of Judge Durfee was upon purely Rhode Island themes-the Rhode Island idea of Government. The orator gave the philo-sophical origin of this idea, traced its progress in history through the Waldenses and Albigenses, the Protestant reformation, the great Puritan movement in England, till it finally took an organic form in the State. He then gave the internal history and external influence of this idea, and concluded with a most eloquent and earnest appeal to the people of the State to cherish and hand down to posterity the know-ledge of the early history of the State. "The discourse, which has since been pub-

lished, displayed minute research and profound thought, and will add to the author's reputation, "An old Psalm, appropriate to the occasion,

and printed on the order of exercises, in the orthography of an older day, was then sung, as our fathers and mothers were used to do, the minister giving out two lines at a time, and the whole congregation joining in the singing."

The Rhode Island Historical Society is among the most active in the Union. It has published five volumes of valuable matter relating to the State of Rhode Island, each being complete works; they are the following:-

Roger Williams's Key to the Indian Language London, 1643.

Simplicity's Defence against Seven-Headed Policy. By Samuel Gorton. London, 1646; with notes and illustrative documents. By Judge Staples.

The Early History of Narragansett, with an appendix of original documents. By Elisha R. Potter.

An Historical Discourse on the Civil and Religious Affairs of Rhode Island, from 1638 to 1738. By John Callender, Boston, 1739; with a memoir of the author, and notices of his contem-

poraries. By Rev. R. Elton.

The History of Providence, from its first Settlement. By W. R. Staples.

The Society is the owner of an elegant little structure, built by itself on University Hill, near Browne University. There its works, manuscripts, and relics of bygone times, are kept, and its ordinary meetings are held. Although the State is small, it has figured largely in our country's history, from the time when Roger Williams first landed on its shores in 1638, to the Dorr insurrection a few years since. Her colonial annals are full of interest. In the War of Independence she took a prominent part, furnishing some of the most distinguished officers, and during the late war with England she was equally active, when, if she had sent no one but the brave Commodore Perry to fight the battles of the country, the laurels she reaped would have sufficed for her portion of the glory gained in our contest with the then mistress of the ocean.

BOSTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. Hillard's Lectures on Milton-Boston opinions of the Review of Bancroft in the Edinburgh-The Literary World and Mr. Sargent's Poems-Mr. Emerson's Poems-Literary News.

Boston, March 8, 1847. THE principal literary attraction here at present, is the course of lectures, by George S. Hillard, on the Life, Writings and Times of

They belong to the series before John Milton. the Lowell Institute, and have, so far, been attended by an audience unprecedented in numbers and intelligence. On last Friday evening, there were from 3000 to 3500 persons present. Mr. Hillard, as you may imagine from the rush to hear him, is a very popular lecturer. He is one of our first scholars and writers, and to a style of fluent ease and polished condensation, he adds the further charm of a musical voice and effective delivery. His first lecture was devoted to the times of Milton, and contained a large amount of valuable information relating to the amount of valuable modification learning to the political, theological and social condition of England under the Stuarts, with a view of the literature of the period. Mr. Hillard gave a sketch of the different political and religious parties, in order to convey an impression of the influences operating on Milton's mind from without, and insensibly moulding his opinions. As a politician he considered him as the child of his age, but as a poet comparatively uninfluenced by it. The second lecture was devoted to the early life of Milton, and to a criticism on his early poems. It was written with great sweetness and beauty of style, displayed a most graceful grasp of the subject, and was full of fine and felicitous criticism. The remarks on Comus were especially beautiful. There are few men who could have held the attention of such an immense audience in an exposition of so refined Schlegel boasts, in the introduction to his lectures on Dramatic Art and Literature, that they were delivered in Vienna to an audience of nearly three hundred persons. The differ-ence between Vienna and Boston in the matter of lectures, at least, is ten to one in favor of our city. It is somewhat curious that the Lowell Institute pays so much more to its lecturers than any other institution, that it is enabled to import the first European men of science, such as Agassiz and Lyell, to deliver courses of lectures in Boston. There are sneers at Boston notions; but it was a respectable "notion" which entered the head of a Bostonian, to leave a large fortune to his city for the purpose of giving it free public lectures to the end of time.

The review of Bancroft's History of the United States, in the last number of the Edinburgh, attracts considerable attention here, and is universally set down as cold, impudent, and trashy. The writer is evidently either one of those fish-blooded elegant litterateurs, who obtain in certain London cliques, by virtue of their "smooth-rubbed" uncharacteristic mediocrity, or a regular hack from Grub street, whose mind has been worn into weakness by doing criticism by the job. Whatever may be thought of Bancroft, it is certain that he can write English much better than his reviewer; and the pretension of the latter, in charitably tapping him on the shoulder, and trying to make him play Verges to his own Dogberry, is exquisitely ridiculous. The whole meaning of the Review is, that from an American nothing in the way of pure English is to be expected. To try him by the standard of Addison or Burke would be unjust. But he writes excellent Choctaw, and from the Choctaw point of view he should there-fore be judged. Had the criticism come from Carlyle or Macaulay, we might have the consolation of knowing that it was done by an able man, who knew something of the resources of language and the materials of history; but when one of the weakest of weak Englishmen,—a man who knows nothing "which it is not a disgrace not to know,"-a man who cannot command a single phrase which mediocrity has not already worn to rags,—assumes a pitying patronage to one of the first American writers and historians, one of the first American writers and it is the sublime of stupid impudence. It is the sublime of stupid impudence. Henry John Lily patronizing Shakspeare, Henry James Pye nodding kindly to Cowper, William Hayley affirming that there is something decent-ly good in Robert Burns. "Weal pie," saith amuel Weller, in one of his philosophic soliloquies, "a werry good thing is weal pie, when you know the lady that made it, and are sure it aint kittens." We do not always know "the

lady" who makes up articles for the Edinburgh Review, and therefore have not the surety which Mr. Weller demands.

The Literary World, in its notice of Sargent's poems a week or so ago, did not do him or his book justice. It should not have passed over the fine poem of "Adelaide's Triumph" with a fleer. If the reviewer did not read it, as he asserts, the sooner he enriches his mind by its perusal, the better for him. It is one of the best occasional poems ever produced on this side of the Atlantic-original in its conception and strikingly beautiful in execution. Unlike many of our best occasional pieces, it is not a mere string of fine fancies and phrases, but a real poem, short but full of meaning, and impressing the mind as a whole. It is in this that a poet displays imagination, more than in a command of single imaginative expressions. [The Literary World must beg the writer's indulgence interruption of a few lines. At the remonstrance of the letter writer, and with the kindest feelings towards Mr. Sargent, the Literury World, after a violent convulsion of the larynx, has actually got Lord de Warrene down and proceeded with the story. It is certainly a pleasing narrative, and justifies the praise we have already given to Mr. Sargent's story telling powers, but we cannot find in it the rich imaginative compost, the intellectual guano to which our correspondent alludes, as so enriching to the The conception of part of the story is beautiful—of the self-sacrifice of a woman who voluntarily serves in silence the lady of a noble house, to all whose wealth and honors she has the only legitimate claim. It is the spirit of Viola in new circumstances. To render the effect complete, the ballad should have had a different close; Adelaide should not have enjoyed a physical triumph. It should have been spiritual alone. Lord de Warrene, on acquaintance, turns out no better than he appeared from first impressions. He is exceedingly like a father we saw the other night in a farce at the Park Theatre, in faded claret and tarnished steel, with those inexpressible drab overalls, which have no existence save in theatrical wardrobes. His use was similar to that of the implement employed in the manufacture of rock candy; in fact, he was but a stick to hold the plot together. So Adelaide is a sweet, pathetic, amiable heroine, but Lord de Warrene, as we suspected, behaves as well as could be required of him under the circumstances, nothing more.

We may be wrong, but we have great veneration for the poet's divinest faculty, and nothing seems to us to detract more from the reverence due to poetry than the common abuse of the term imagination. If an author is obscure, it is set down to the score of imagination; if he rants, he is said to have a splendid imagination; if he borrows a few poetical feathers and declaims, an indirect compliment is paid to Shakspeare and Milton, in calling him a man "of imagination—large!" We look for something of creation and invention, before we apply the term in its proper literary sense. Now Adelaide's Triumph is a skilful and feeling composition, but is it a "a real poem," in any reverent use of so sterling an adjective and so right honorable a noun? Would it even have been discredited by the introduction of "a few fine fancies?"

We trust our readers do not so misunderstand us, as to take our occasional censures for personal ill-will. We trust there will always be evident, a good cause intended to be served.

We gladly take this occasion to quote a few lines from Mr. Sargent's volume, which, with the *Home Journal*, we admire heartily.

THE GAY DECEIVER.

"Summer wind! summer wind! Where hast thou been? Chasing the gossamer Over the green! Rifling the cowslip's wealth, Down in the daie? Light-pinioned pifferer, Tell me thy tale!

"I am a rover gay,
Dashing and free,—
Now on the land astray,
Now on the sea.
I quaff the honey-breath
Of the young rose;
I kiss the violet
Where the brook flows.

"Out on thee, fugitive,
Fickle, untrue!
Leaving the violet,
Whom wilt thou woo?
Canst thou delighted be
With hearts undone?
Canst thou show constancy
Never to one?

"Ah! bear me, maiden dear!
Turn not away:
I have a rover been
Until to-day;
But now I find a home
Where I can rest;—
Captive, I sink, at length,
Here on thy breast."

I have not seen any review of Emerson's Poems in the World yet. His volume presents strong temptations to the critics; but they should be of keen eye and cool temper. Emerson is the most slippery and elusive of writers, and absolutely mocks at the usual processes of analysis. one, who has not reproduced the moods of mind in which many of his poems had their birth, can possibly see in them anything but shining mist. Though he is the most transcendental of transcendentalists, he is, at the same time, the most acute of Yankees; and deals with a practical question with as much sagacity as with a pantheistic revelation from the seventh heaven of philosophy. No man living combines so happily elevation with shrewdness. He is a sort of cross between Apollo and Jonathan Slick. Leaving out of view the peculiar doctrines and more peculiar rhythm, of many pieces in his volume, which none but the initiated can comprehend, -there are the ethereal beauty of "The Forerunners," the blithe philosophy of "The Hum-ble Bee," the dilating imagination of "The Problem," the keen, subtle and fiery essence of genius, which pervades the "Ode to Beauty," and the mystical pathos and tenderness of "The

The American Peace Society have offered \$500 for the best Essay on the Mexican War, to be sent in four months after the war closes. Prof. Greenleaf, of Cambridge, Dr. Wayland, Dr. Jenks, are the Committee to read the Essays. As these gentlemen are among the best men in the country, it is to be hoped that they will live to give their decision, though such extreme longevity is not to be reasonably expected.

There is little literary news. Monroe & Co, will not publish Wm. H. Channing's Life of Dr. Channing until May. The correspondence of the Dr., if we may judge from the few specimens given in the Life of Blanco White, will be exceedingly interesting. Ticknor & Co, are now printing a new edition of Motherwell's Poems, containing about thirty posthumous poems, not included in the other editions. It is also to have a Life of the poet. The same publishers have also just issued a Church Liturgy, containing many new forms of expression, and other innovations. The Old and New Schools begin already to cavil at it.

Mr. H. N Hudson, the lecturer on Shak-

Mr. H. N. Hudson, the lecturer on Shakspeare, is threatening an article on Philanthropy, to serve as a conclusion to the remarks on the Philanthropists, contained in his brilliant and stringent review of "Festus." Geo. F. Curtis, an able lawyer and legal writer, is engaged in the preparation of a work on Copyright.

Miscellann.

NOAH'S Times and Messenger has an edifying corollary, to an account of the recent singular trial in the case of Dr. Oatman, who, as all the world knows, has been sued for damages in the Court of Common Pleas, by an enterprising lady, to whose nostrils he had applied, by

way of test, a phial of cayenne pepper, at a magnetic séance held by Dr. Le Roy Sunderland; the result of which trial was, that the jury gave six cents damages and six cents costs,

in favor of the plaintiff.

"Ghosts.—Brutus saw the ghost of Cæsar; Molly Brown saw the ghost of Giles Scroggins; Richard III. beheld the shades of those whom he had murdered; the ghost of Hamlet's father is an old stand-by recognised by everybody; Sci-pio's ghost walked unavenged, so Cato said; ghosts are spoken of in the Holy Scripturestherefore ghosts may now be visible to such per-sons as know how to command their presence or We will confess that, only one appearance. short week ago, we should have laughed at the idea of spirits being permitted to startle one's optics in the 19th century; but in the meantime, abundant evidence of the fact that we would have cachinnated in the wrong place has been furnished. On the trial of Oatman, it was sworn that the plaintiff, Miss Montgomery, was a ghost seer, and that she had, at different periods, seen the spirits of her mother (horrid blasphemy!), George Washington, and John Wesley! As the oath under which this information was given was taken by one who had only heard that she had witnessed these remarkable sights, it was had witnessed these remarkable sights, it was not particularly convincing; but all doubt perforce vanished when a Mr. Gerard, a magnetic somnambulist, swore that he 'had seen a great variety of ghosts.' Thus, we are positively assured that apparitions not only do treat the earth to occasional visits, but that there are varieties of them, just as there exist varieties of apples, flowers, and so forth! Yes, we have every reason to believe that ghosts of all kinds—old, young, tall, short, handsome, and homely shades

'Black spirits and white, Blue spirits and grey'—

come to New York, at pleasure, across the Styx, in Charon's noted river craft. Heaven knows Europe is sending us population enough, and the other world ought not to forward its inhabitants to this part of the mundane ball. Confound improvements, after all!—for perhaps this recent increase in the emigration of ghosts is entirely owing to the rapid march of science: that is, for aught we know to the contrary, the Styx may now be navigated by steam, and Cerberus may take charge of a telegraphic station, as well as the gates of a place that lies further south than any other of which we have cognisance. Wonderful, indeed, are the consequences of progress! Henceforth, call not implicit confidence in the supernatural the offspring of ignorance. Sir Walter Scott had a personal knowledge of spectres, according to his own showing. Sheridan Knowles believes in their existence, and is, withal, so superstitious that he will not walk under a ladder for fear some evil genius will cause him to be hanged. The incredulous will, therefore, learn that we have intellect in support of our side of the question."

A foreign correspondent of the Courier and Enquirer enters another protest against certain other evils of the times, which his earnest remonstrance, after making allowance for his utter denial of "social liberty," should go far to abate.

"It is our constant vaunt that ours is a land of liberty; and, thank Heaven, so it is. Liberty, both personal and political, is ours in right and possession. But have we social liberty? No, not a particle of it. And I hesitate in nowise to say so, though my words will probably excite as little sympathy as did the lamentations of Dr. Parr over the rent in his new cloak. Still the rent did not less mar the beauty of the garment, and, believe me, that the absence of that graceful regard to the privacies of life, which spreads a charm over existence, detracts in no slight degree from the amenities of society. Certainly it is a great thing that among us a man's property is his own, to do with it what shall seem to him best; and we can never too dearly prize that

law which saves the meanest individual from an imprisonment of months on mere suspicion,—an affair of common occurrence in France—to be afterwards thrust into the streets, neither innocent nor guilty in the world's esteem, to meet, what I have known, a once flourishing family changed into paupers, prostitutes and plunderers, for lack of a father's care. But is it a small matter that, in our cities as well as our villages, no time, nor place, nor circumstance, is holy from the intrusion of the prying eye, the tattling tongue, and the slanderous pen?—that the incomings and outgoings of every one are known to all and are the subject of criticism to all? The gossiping busy-bodies of Boston and New York, 'whose name is Legion,' and who pass their time in 'inquiring for some new thing,' it matters not whether false or true, are better acquainted, perhaps, with their neighbors' concerns than with their own. And in at least partial corroboration of my words, I will mention, though it shames me to do so, what has lately come to my knowledge, that in these cities statements are annually published, and patronised too, describing the parentage, property and lives of persons who, so far from ever having obtruded themselves on public notice, were always content to go on 'in the quiet tenor of their ways,' and in the modest performance of every duty. Such things should not be.

Such things should not be.

"The other of the two subjects above alluded to, and one which interests me quite as strongly and not more agreeably than the first, is the licentious American practice of giving introductory letters, without regard to the merits of the bearers of them, and in contempt of the rights of those to whom they are addressed. So prevalent and odious has it become, that recommendations from the other side of the water are beginning to be considered as serious afflictions, and are sometimes very properly rejected by the purposed victims, on the ground that they are unacquainted with their would-be tormentors. One instance among many, illustrative of the existence of this intolerable nuisance, will suffice to show that I 'speak by the card.' An English gentleman, conspicuous alike for his public and private virtues, his high rank and position in society, but who, in an evil hour for his future comfort, once visited the United States, is to this day overwhelmed with scriptory impertinences of transatlantic growth, which would drive a less patient and amiable man than himself stark mad. And what renders the matter still worse is, that these letters of introduction, written frequently with self-serving or political views, are sometimes given to those who, 'not to speak it profanely, have neither the accent of Christian, Pagan, nor man, they imitate humanity so abominably."

The secret of poetic effect is to put the thought in a form just corresponding to the occasion;—not to make a narrative poem out of a ballad; an epic instead of a canto, or a sonnet in place of a jingle. Sentiment should for such purposes be put up in very small parcels; suggesting more than it asserts. The Louisville Journal, famous for its contributions to the stock of wit and poetry, furnishes the following in a late number, in which aim is taken from the right level:—

"A RHYMING FAREWELL."

"Ah, well you knew
The heart you threw
Away was true
To love and you
Alone.

"Night's sky that teemed With worlds redeemed, Held none that beamed More bright than seemed Our own.

" For every charm Of soul or form, The heart to warm Or nerve the arm Was here.

" But pleasure's hall And beauty's thrail And glory's call— I left them all For you.

"In you was blent Each element Of beauty, lent To sweet intent Within.

"There was a bright Bewildering light That fell in might From your dark night Of eyes.

"There was a dawn
Of soul upon
Your lips, that shone
Like sunshine on
My heart.

"Each gentle word
That you conferred,
Like music heard
In sweet dream, stirr'd
My soul.

"And she you were The only here Who could confer A smile or tear At will.

"But fare you well!
"Twere vain to dwell
Upon that spell—
It can compel
No more.

"The mystic chain
That you would fain
Link up again
Is broke in twain—
I'm free!

"Go—be't your's while You may beguile By many a wile Of word or smile To cheat,

"Nor vainly yet
Think I regret—
I will forget
That we have met.
Farewell!"

Taylorsville, Ky.

C. W. A.

Leigh Hunt is too much a man of gallantry ever to pass in his new (literary) street perambulations the house of a lady of genius, without paying his respects to the presence within. He thus discourses of a past and present inhabitant of the same street:

"In Bolton street resides Mrs. Norton,

"Are not these names of authoresses pleasant to repeat as one goes along, instead of merely looking up and reading the word 'tobacconist,' or 'tea-dealer,' or thinking of one's cares? Mrs. Norton, though of an aristocratic sphere, cannot be accused of taking an aristocratic view of the rights of the poor. A fine trumpet has she blown up in their behalf, in eloquent and sounding verses. We allude to her poem called the 'Child of the Isles.' Its only danger is, that however sweet and powerful, she has blown it a little too long, and in a tone of too unvaried remonstrance; so that the persons whose conscience it was intended to rouse, might pretend they had a right not to listen. She is a glorious creature, body and mind; and ought to be a princess with a million a year, to enable her purse to flow like her poetry. Her sister, Lady Dufferin, is another: and we believe that these two ladies are as remarkable for their attachment to one another, as for genius. (N.B. We do not pretend a right to make these or any other personal remarks in our own individual character, but solely as speaking the sentiments of observers in general.)

"In Bolton street latterly resided, for a short period, Madame d'Arblay, authoress of 'Evenina,' 'Cecilia,' &c. Madame d'Arblay—Miss Burney 'as was' (this is the way in which it would have pleased her to designate another)—did not bestir herself in behalf of the poor and oppressed, like the fair poetesses; neither did she partake of their beauty. Sympathy was not the taste of her times, nor did it suggest itself to her comic and somewhat servile genius. In

truth, Madame d'Arblay was a worshipper of rank, and by no means either the profound or refined writer her friends took her for. Her delight is to get her heroines into vulgar difficulties. But she had considerable insight into character, and abundance of fun and drollery. The account she has given, in her Memoirs, of her service in the royal household as one of the dressers of Queen Charlotte, whose exactions of attention nearly killed her, and who could not be persuaded that a woman of genius, possessing the felicity of waiting on a queen, could have anything to do with ill-health, is a lamentable, unconscious exposure of mistakes on all sides, and high feeling on none."

Che fine Arts.

ONE of the latest acts of our wise legislators, in Senate and Congress assembled, was to give the commission for the picture to fill the vacant panel in the Rotunda of the Capitol to Mr. Powell. That this act is an affront to the understanding of their constituents, will not be denied by any one at all conversant with affairs of art; and by what species of juggling it has been consummated, we are at a loss to conjecture, though we are disposed to regard it as a practical political joke, an ebulli-tion of the facetious spirit that sometimes is manifest among our lawgivers, and which not unfrequently has a like unfortunate result; another evidence of the eccentricity of the age in which our lot is cast. We have no personal ill will towards the artist selected, and no disposition to underrate his abilities; but, out of the number of applicants for the commission, we honestly believe him the least deservingthe least qualified to undertake it.

Mr. Powell is a young artist of no mean abilities, and we have always indulged the belief that age and experience, with well directed culture, would place him in a respectable rank among his compeers. It was his misfortune at one time to be the pet of fashion, more from the circumstance of his extreme youth and precocity than any intrinsic excellence in his art; and as a natural consequence, he was prodigiously caressed for a season and suddenly forgotten. He had the good sense to perceive that his present harvest was ended, and applied himself to study with considerable earnestness; and had his misguided friends left him with his elementary studies, he might have retrieved his lost popularity. It was, no doubt, kindly meant, on their part, but we predict that it will be his ruin.

The mode suggested in the Evening Mirror, would have been the proper one for Congress to adopt. "To invite artists to send cartoons to Washington, from which the best design might have been selected by a committee appointed for the purpose. This," the journal remarks, "is the Democratic and honorable course pursued by England and France in such matters. But here we job everything—from a picture to a Major General: nothing goes by merit, but everything by favor."

merit, but everything by favor."

There was no need of haste in giving this commission, and the cause of art and the interests of the people would have been much better served had the subject been deferred for a time. If our legislators, in their wisdom, did not consider such men as Durand, Cole, Page, Morse, and Sully, among the seniors, equal to the work, they should have given time to the junior class—and their name is legion—who unquestionably are beginning to enjoy superior advantages for study, and greater stimulus to exertion, to perfect their elementary education; and acquire that degree of skill in manipulation and the modes of expressing their thoughts.

truth, Madame d'Arbiay was a worshipper of rank, and by no means either the profound or refined writer her friends took her for. Her de- of its destination.

This brings us back to the subject of our last article; and we shall have a word more to say in reference to the importance of severe study, in order to the attainment of excellence in any of the departments of the Fine Arts. That it is requisite for the accomplishment of a high degree of excellence, no one who is at all conversant with the beauties of the old masters, whose works are so often quoted as examples of superior merit, will deny, and we are far from despairing of the ultimate triumph of high art in our own country. In every other great pursuit, whether in the walks of elevated science, poetry, general literature, or mechanics, the intellectual as well as the moral and physical energies of the American people, have shown themselves hardly second in achievement to any; and are destined, at no distant day, to rank with the older nations of the world.

It is an old and pervading belief, that the world will never again witness the Arts in their full glory, as they shone in the days of Xerxes and Apelles—of Angelo and Raphael. But we are infidel in this belief, and acknowledge ourselves so verdant, as to imagine that pictures have been painted, and statues modelled and wrought, within the last half century, equal in grandeur of conception, and superior in point of execution to the works of antiquity. But these results are only observable where a corresponding attention has been bestowed upon elementary culture. The Greeks exacted of the student in sculpture, and the different classes of painting practiced among them, seven

years' study, in outline, exclusively, with the stile. The modern German and French schools are more thorough in their elementary studies than any others; and the good results are manifest in their higher class productions, such as those of Horace Vernèt, Paul de la Roche, and Shaeffer. In the French schools established for the education of operatives destined to be employed in the decoration of manufactured products; scroll work, the human figure, and various other desirable standards, are set up to be copied in outline alone, with plain charcoal; a course tenaciously adhered to, until an ability to appreciate and to delineate beauty of form, is developed.

of form, is developed.

The celebrated Overbeck, who is at the head of the highest class of German art—that of a pathetic and religious character—executes at present his finest works—cartoons—in common charcoal, and slightly shaded outline drawing. Of this character, also, are some of the finest works of Albert Durer and Retsch. A proof that the most humble materials, in the hands of an accomplished artist, are sufficient for the attainment of the highest ends.

We are glad to hear that the Mechanics' Institute in this city, has established a rudimentary school for drawing from the flat, and one also for mechanical drawing: and we predict that some of the finest artists our country is yet to produce, will lay the foundation of their future success in this school. The teacher, though yet a young man, is eminently qualified for his position; and feeling, as he does, an unbounded reverence for the higher qualities of his art, he cannot fail to impart a degree of the same spirit to the pupils under his charge.

junior class—and their name is legion—who unquestionably are beginning to enjoy superior advantages for study, and greater stimulus to exertion, to perfect their elementary education; and acquire that degree of skill in manipulation and the modes of expressing their thoughts,

with such a degree of proficiency as to render the study of the Greek remains a real advantage in cultivating the taste.

In the Foreign Academies there are generally rooms devoted, and hours allotted, daily, to drawing from the flat, that is, from fine engravings and drawings by the best masters; landscape and water-color drawing, architectural drawing, copying statues; a modelling school and a life school; and in addition to this, a painting school, for the more advanced students. In this school they are instructed in copying some of the best pictures of the different schools, by which means they are enabled to acquire a correct knowledge of the mechanical process and materials employed in the best schools of art. Besides these means of practical instruction, there are five courses of lectures, gratuitous, given to the exhibitors as well as students. The courses are on painting, sculpture, architecture, perspective, and anatomy.

It may not, at present, be within the power of our Academy to establish all these facilities; but it is legitimately their office; and we believe we have a right to expect them to do something towards it. With them, the annual exhibition is of paramount importance to every other consideration, when it should be but secondary, and regarded only as a means for the attainment of higher ends. It lies within the power of that institution to promote or retard the progress of knowledge among our artists, beyond all present calculation, and it is high time they had exhibited at least a disposition to advance.

Minsic.

AMERICAN MUSICAL INSTITUTE.

WE augur much practical good to result from the successful establishment of this Society. It is an enterprise which possesses the greatest interest to those who seek to promote the elevation of public taste and morals through the pure and simple appliances of Art. Such an effort as is now made we never con-templated would be undertaken by a single individual, but rather from the combined resources of the many who have this object at heart: hence the more praise is justly the meed of the projector for his courage and devotion to the cause, in attempting that alone, which others, lacking his faith in public cooperation, would, in most cases, be likely to shrink from. That his project, however, will ultimately prove successful, we can entertain no reasonable doubt, although the first steps may be beset with discouraging difficulties, and his efforts received with that coldness and suspicion which too often attend the most praiseworthy attempts: but believing, as we do, in the singleness and sincerity of his purpose, we consider we are only discharging our duty when we invite the attention and support of our readers to the early efforts: for, when a sure hold on public interest is once attained, the little aid we can render a good cause will be no longer needed. The object, as stated by the projector in his prospectus, is to confer a thorough practical musical education on a large body of the people—in some instances free of expense, and in others at a very trifling The second object is to extend a refined and cultivated taste in music, by the performance of the best vocal compositions of the greatest musicians of the past and present time. These objects, although stated separately, are, in the projector's mind, identical: the second being, however, entirely dependent upon the first; as no great design can be accomplished unless the means are commensurate with the end. The best works of the great composers have long been in our possession, but unheard, as the means (the singers) have never been equal to their performance. The aim of the projector is, to elevate the means to the end, and the Institute is established on such wide and liberal principles, that it invites all persons, independent of clique or party, to avail themselves of its advantages.

It is necessary to divide the members of the Institute into several departments, or classes, in order to distinguish the professor from the amateur, and the proficient from the pupil.

The principal solo parts to be sustained by ladies and gentlemen of the musical profession of acknowledged abilities, and to receive adequate remuneration for their services: these to constitute the *first class*.

The Second Class to consist of professors and amateurs competent to sustain the minor solo parts, and likewise of such as are able to read music fluently: these also to receive compensation.

The Third Class to consist of such amateurs as fully understand the principal rudiments of music, and are able to read Church psalmody at sight; they are to rehearse with the first and second classes, and sing in the chorus at performances, without pecuniary compensation; for being regarded as in a stage of education, the opportunities of improvement and advancement afforded are more than equivalent to the services rendered by them.

services rendered by them.

The Fourth and Fifth Classes to consist respectively of those who have attained some knowledge of the rudiments of music, and of those who are learners from the commencement, who pay for their tuition at a moderate charge, and receive the privilege of attending all the performances of the Institute.

Thus far, with some minor particulars which may be found in the prospectus, in connexion with the first object-the musical education of a large body of the people-which we think the plan detailed above is well calculated to secure; the second object is sought to be accomplished by the performance of a series of at least five concerts in the season; consisting of favorite oratorios of the most eminent composers, many of which have never been heard in this city; and other compositions, such as Mendelssohn's Antigone, his Lobgesang, his Midsummer Night's Dream, &c.; Handel's Acis and Galatea; Beethoven's Ruins of Athens; and a host of others that must commend the design of this Institute to the notice of the musical public. We regret that a more fitting place than the Tabernacle does not exist for the performances. The necessity for the speedy erection of a Music Hall is even more urgent than we were aware, when, in our third number, we described the proper plan of such a structure; and we are gratified to find that many of the hopes and wishes there expressed are much nearer being realized than we dared to expect. That all will in due time be accomplished there is little reason to doubt, let each one who desires it lend his quota of assistance at the time it is most needed.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Hebrew Maiden's Lament. Music by P. Lindpainter, with English words by C. Beaunom Burkhardt New York: C. Holt.

This is one of the most pleasing, and, in the hands of a singer possessing true feeling, one of the most effective of Lindpainter's compositions. The lament is for the hopeless love entertained for a Christian youth by the Hebrew maiden. The translation is good, and well adapted to the

expression of the music. We hope to see more of Lindpainter's songs published here.

Flora's Festival. A Musical Recreation for Schools, Juvenile Singing Classes, &c.; together with Songs, Duets, and Trios, Solfeggios, Scales, and Plain Tunes for Singing by Note, &c., &c. Edited by Wm. B. Bradbury. New York: M H. Newman & Co. 1847.

This little book contains the songs, choruses, &c, sung at "Flora's Festival," noticed in our last, and will be welcome to those who attended on that occasion, as well as to others engaged in teaching. The selections are in good taste, chiefly from Auber, Rossini, and Strauss, distinguished by simple and flowing melody, well-suited to the wants of the young. Less than half the book is occupied by the music of the "Festival," the rest consists of "Other Songs, Duetts, &c." Subjoined are "The Elements of Vocal Music, Solfeggios, Plain Tunes, &c."

Publishers' Circular.

NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS IN LONDON.

The Doctor, &c. Vol. VI. London: Longman & Co., 1847.

THE Doctor was the waste book into which Southey threw all his idle fancies, stray thoughts, and scraps of unused reading. It is altogether a wonderful mélange—full of wit and imagination, caricature, great knowledge of life, books, science, language; grave, grotesque, recondite by turns—as various as a rainbow; a repository of proverbs, apologies, and opinions, criticisms, characters—and yet for all this strange hurly-burly, never obscure, never dull, and always fascinating.

fascinating.

It is not to be expected that a posthumous volume compiled from MS. materials should carry on the design with as much unity as if the hand of the author had presided over its arrangement. Southey's method of proceeding seems to have been this;—loose excerpta and fragments of all sorts were collected first, and when he set about a new volume he culled all he wanted from this rich heap, and then strung them, with a studious appearance of heedlessness, upon a faint thread of narrative; or, if it may not be called narrative, upon such slight points of connexion as imparted something like consecutiveness to the whole. The incidents and sketches that gave continuity to the interest appear to have been added in last, like the finishing touches of the painter. Now, it is in these touches, if it be wanting in anything, the volume before us is deficient.

But it is unreasonable to conjecture, except from certain indications in the former volume, which look as if he meditated at last the development of a story, how Southey might have gone on with the *Doctor*. He might have given us a whole volume printed in black letter, and dedicated to the Virgin. The plan, or want of plan, was open to anything; and so far as the richness and massiveness of the matter are concerned, this sixth volume yields to none of its predecessors.

It is edited by the Rev. Mr. Warter, the husband of Southey's daughter Edith. To this lady, who was his favorite daughter—his right hand he used to call her—he commenced a little poem, of which, says Mr. Warter, the following lines are probably the very last he ever wrote:—

"O daughter dear, who bear'st no longer now
Thy father's name, and for the chalky flats
Of Sussex hast exchanged thy native land
Of lakes and mountains— either change of place
Condition and all circumstantial things,
Nor new relations, and excess of cares
Unfelt before, have allenated thee,
Nor weaned thy heart from this beloved spot,
Thy birth place, and so long thy happy home!"

In the distribution of Southey's literary property, the MS. materials for the completion of the *Doctor*, together with other treasures, fell to the share of his daughter Edith. The volume, we are assured, is arranged after the method laid

down by the author himself; "but," says Mr. Warter, "had Southey lived it was his intention to have advanced a step in the story in this volume; and the inter-chapters, no doubt, would have been enlarged, according to custom.—The Atlas.

A Synopsis of Criticism upon those Passages of the Old Testament in which Modern Commentators have differed from the Authorized Version; together with an Explanation of various difficulties in the Hebrew and English Texts. By the Reverend Richard A. F. Barrett, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. Volume I. Part 1.

A VERY well-designed and apparently a very carefully-executed work on Biblical criticism, indispensable to the student who wishes to master the Old Testament. The author's object is to lay before the reader the principal alterations which modern critics have proposed in the authorized version, together with the reasons for or against such emendations. The student is presented with the original Hebrew text, the Septuagint version, the authorized translation, and lastly the explanations of those commentators who support the present version, as well as of those who consider the Hebrew text to be corrupt, or to be misunderstood by our translators. When several commentators have agreed in the material parts of any alteration, they are classed together, and the particular words of one of them adopted.

Such is the plan of Mr. Barrett; which embraces ancient as well as modern critics, foreign (especially the Germans) as well as English, and which extends from a single sentence upon a single word to long and elaborate disquisitions, critical and illustrative as well as grammatical. The design appears, as we have said, to be executed with pains and skill. Neither the philology nor the subjects beneath the philology are adapted to our columns. It is enough to mention the scope and describe the plan; but we may add, that the work is well printed, in double columns; and that the portion before us embraces Genesis, Exodus, and part of Leviticus.—

London Spectator.

Strawberry Hill; an Historical Novel. By the author of "Shakspeare and his Friends," "Maids of Honor," "Sir Roger de Coverley," &c. 3 vols. Colburn.

With the pen of a ready and facile writer, the author of these pleasing volumes has undertaken a beld task, no less (in describing the England of more than half a century ago, and its court and upper classes of society) than to present us with Horace Walpole as the hero of a love-romance! What will the contemners of that singular personage say to such a metamorphosis of their dilettante, factitious, superficial, and political gossip? Will they consent to go with the rest of the world, as led through this new Strawberry-Hill edition, and accept its lord at any rate halfway between their estimate of him and the imaginativeness of character belonging to his Castle of Otranto? We think the author has shown powers enough to induce them to do so, and for the first time to view Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, as a natural man, gifted with strong feelings, and influenced by varying passions. like other men.

passions, like other men.

The germ of the story is discovered in an exquisitely beautiful miniature, observed and purchased at the late virtuoso sale at Strawberry-Hill. Upon a close inspection, the words, "Rome, 1740: Arabella Falkland to Horace Walpole," are discovered; and on this is raised the superstructure of the novel. Of the multitude of persons who figure in it, we need only say that they are almost entirely the same of whom we read in the Walpole Works; and that the intrigues for and against Sir Robert's ministry, affairs public and private, transactions from the throne to the lowest circles, and all relations of life, are painted in a life-like manner, so as to afford a very lively idea of the period.—Literary Gazette.

The Theatres of Paris. By Charles Hervey.
Illustrated with Original Portraits of Eminent Living Actresses. By Alexander Lacauchie.

To nineteen out of twenty tourists who have not time, taste, opportunity, or language sufficient to procure them entrance into French society, the Theatres of Paris are its third estate—the other two being composed of the Shops and the Restaurateurs. Play-going there is so easy, and fits so well into the daily life of our neighbors, instead of being, as here, a difficulty to be grappled with,—the new actress, the new opera, or the new spectacle, are topics of such infinite imthe new spectacle, are topics of such infinite importance in society,—that Mr. Hervey's subject was a far better one than the "History and Mystery of the Theatres of London" could have been It is better, too, as not only justifying, but in some sort demanding digressions from the but in some sort demanding digressions from the salle into the foyer,—and from the "lamp-oil and orange peel" world, into the domains of general society, literature, and art. But our author, though gentlemanly and pleasant, has not made the most of his advantages. He gives us introductory sketches of the history of the Académie Royale, the Ojéra Comique, the Théûtre Français, &c.—but his anecdotes and notices are somewhat of the oldest; while his catalogue raisannée of artists before the public. catalogue raisonnée of artists before the public, is more meagre than we could have wished.
Madame Dorval, for instance, though among
"the unattached," is so perpetually in the
thoughts and speculations of the Parisian theatregoers and dramatic literati that she ought not to have been packed away in a note. Then, signs of management are perceptible in the articles on Mille. Rachel, Madame Stoltz, and one or two other artists; which prevent our implicit faith in the narratives and criticisms that have less known gentlemen and ladies for their object. When we recollect how admirable and important a share in creating the repertory of the modern French theatre was taken by the Queen of classical French comedy, Mars the incomparable—we feel, too, that the omission of a retrospect of her career, the character of her acting, and the list of her marvellous range of characters, is not to be forgiven. But let us not break a butterfly on a wheel. The book as a drawing-room book merits place and welcome. It is illustrated by portraits of Mdlle. Rachel,—Madame Stoltz— Mdlle. Plunkett, and her sister Madame Doche (neither of whom owes an overpowering debt of gratitude to the portraiture of M. Lacauchie),— Madame Albert (from whom, on the other hand, the artist has gallantly taken away some dozen years),—Mdlle. Nathalie,—Mdlle. Rose-Chéri, and (to avail ourselves of one of Mr. Hervey's expressions) "the Sophie Arnould of modern times-the inimitable, impudent, wicked, witty, fascinating if not fair-faced, Mdlle. Déjazet." Athenaum

The Minstrelsy of the English Border. Being a Collection of Ballads, Ancient, Remodelled, and Original, founded on well-known Border Legends. With Illustrative Notes. Border Legends. With Il By FREDERICK SHELDON. London: Longman & Co. 1847.

THE title of this book is not borne out by the contents. The Minstrelsy of the Border points to popular songs long known and handed down by tradition; but the greater part of Mr. Shel-don's volume consists of ballads written by himself. The subjects are old-the poems and the anthology may not be improperly de-scribed as a sort of modern antique.

But the book is abundantly interesting on other grounds. As a collection of ballads, embodying striking incidents in border history, it is excel-lent. The traditions have been all gathered on the spot, and authenticated by the best kind of evidence that can be brought to bear upon them. There is nothing speculative in these Mr. Sheldon brings us at once to the places where they were executed, identifies the locality, and so realizes the fact, at all events. is something; and to this extent we are bound to be grateful for his labors.

It is curious to see how a veritable ancient ballad suffers in the process of modernization; how much more spirit, freshness, and beauty there is in the old manner than the new;as a specimen the old Scotch ballad of "Bonny Lady Anne," of which Mr. Sheldon, with most reverent care, has given us "an English ver-Here are first a couple of Mr. Sheldon's stanzas :-

Her bower is scented with flowers sweet, Her bower is scented with flowers sweet,
The daintiest earth e'er fed;
And they look on her cheek, in rivalry,
And with shame they hang their head:
Her ringlets fall from her queen-like brow,
And her voice is a silver bell;
And her looks with grace and beauty beam,
The lovely_Lady Nell.

The cloud of morning hath a bloom,
A plum-like, cherry streak;
And there's its marrow to be seen
Upon my sweet love's cheek;
Her eyebrow is an arch of love,
And her eye becomes it well;
The breath of May comes from her mouth,
My bonnie Lady Nell.

Now for the original :-

Her bower casement is latticed wi' flowers,
Tied up wi' siller thread,
And comely sits she in the midst,
Men's langin' eyen to feed;
She waves the ringlets frae her cheek
Wi' her milky, milky han',
And her every look beams wi' grace divine,
My bonny Lady Anne.

The morning cloud is tassell'd wi' gowd,
Like my luve's broidered cap,
And on the mantle, which my luve wears,
Is mony a gowden drap:
Her boany e'ebrow's a holy arch,
Cast by nae earthly han',
And the breath o' Heaven's atween the lips
O' my boanie Lady Anne.

The Atlas.

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